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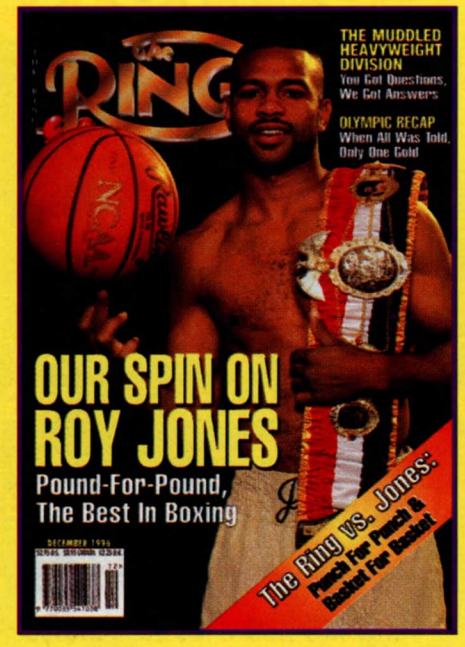

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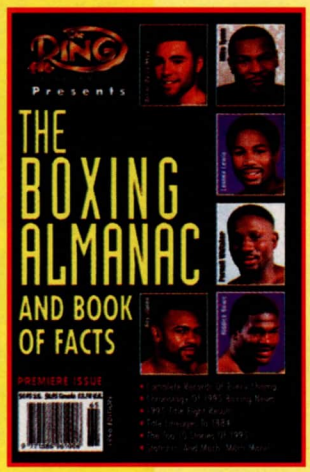

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CONTENTS

March 1997

FEATURES

19 **ATLAS: TOO DEMANDING MOORER: TOO UNYIELDING**
A Perfect One-Two
by Eric Singer

22 **MIKE TYSON: CAN HE RECLAIM HIS GREATNESS?**
by Nigel Collins

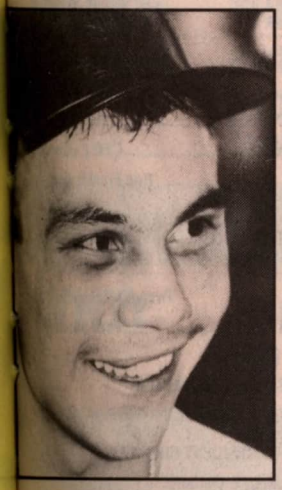
27 **SPECIAL SECTION: THE 10 GREATEST CONTROVERSIES IN BOXING HISTORY**
Compiled by Eric Bottjer

48 **THE RING'S QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH**
A Cross-Section Of Boxing Opinion
by Thad Moore

50 **HERE'S TO YOU, KOSTYA TSZYU**
Coming Up From Down Under
by Terry Smith

52 **A DECADE TO REMEMBER**
Merqui Sosa Looks At The '90s
by Robert Cassidy

54 **BATTERED BY TRAGEDY**
Even Life Can't Kayo George Chuvalo
by Warren Tasker

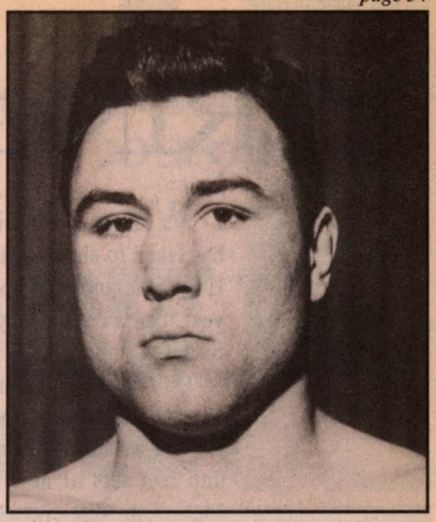


page 50

Cover:
Tyson (posed) by Jason Ross Lavin
Tyson (action) by Al Bello/Allsport

page 22

page 54



Ringside Reports And Analyses

60 **FIGHTER OF THE MONTH & RINGSIDE REPORTS**

Ratings

12 **THE RING'S INTERNATIONAL RATINGS AND RECORDS**

82 **WBA, WBC, & IBF RATINGS**

DEPARTMENTS

4 **RINGSIDE** *by Steve Farhood*

6 **COME OUT WRITING**

8 **ROUND ONE**

16 **RYAN OUT LOUD,** *by Jeff Ryan*

57 **NEW FACES: Junior Welterweight Mark Lewis,** *by Ivan G. Goldman*

58 **WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS**

66 **CAMERA CLICKS**

81 **BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK ,** *by Don Scott*

84 **THE RING CLASSIC: Marciano-Dempsey Fight A Knockout,** *by Al Buck*

90 **LOOKING AHEAD**

RINGSIDE

With its eyes having been permanently blackened, boxing has taken to shooting itself in the foot. No sooner had Evander Holyfield, and to a lesser extent Junior Jones, saved a dreary year than a controversy surfaced that could've embarrassed the Sweet Science as none other before it.

On November 22 in Tampa, Florida, Jones' inspired kayo of previously unbeaten pound-for-pound entrant Marco Antonio Barrera wasn't minutes old when the judges for that bout exited, and *two* sets of new arbiters arrived. Roy Jones and Mike McCallum were about to duke it out for the interim WBC light heavyweight title, and as three Florida-appointed judges (Ric Bays, Paul Herman, and Jay Kasees) assumed their usual positions, three WBC-appointed judges (Tom Kaczmarek, Barbara Perez, and Marty Denkin) scrambled to find seats along press row.

As far as the Florida State Athletic Commission and HBO, which televised the bout, were concerned, the first set of judges was official. From the WBC's perspective, the second set was all that mattered. Which brought up the obvious question: What if the bout went the distance (which it did), and the Florida judges scored for one fighter, while the WBC judges scored for the other? As it turned out, Jones was a clear winner on all six cards, but that's not the point. Imagine the repercussions had the worst-case scenario played out. Boxing would have been a laughingstock, and much of the good created by Holyfield's upset of Mike Tyson would have been instantly erased.

For the record, here's what happened: Precedent suggested Florida would appoint one judge and the referee, and the WBC would assign the other two judges. But with Jones being a Floridian, WBC President Jose Sulaiman insisted on four "neutral" officials. He ultimately relented on the referee, who turned out to be Florida's Brian Garry, but wouldn't budge on the judges. Likewise, after consulting with his commissioners, Mike Scionti, the executive director of the Florida commission, took a firm stand, assigning his own judges.

According to one source, Scionti and Sulaiman were aware of the impasse as much as a month before the fight. Moreover, HBO arranged an hour-long meeting the day before, which included Scionti, Sulaiman, Square Ring promoter Fred Levin, producer Dave Harmon, and Harold Lederman, the network's unofficial judge, who is among the most respected officials in the sport. "Everyone was cordial, but neither side would give an inch," reported Lederman.

What resulted one day later was, as Lederman aptly put it, "a circus, a zoo." Who was right and who was wrong? Says Lederman, "The WBC was 100 percent right; there should have been all 'neutral' officials." Maybe so, but doesn't that imply that the Florida-appointed judges were something less than objective? And what about all those title fights on foreign soil when the WBC (or one of the other sanctioning bodies) assigns one judge from Fighter A's home country, one from Fighter B's home country, and one from a third, or 'neutral,' country?

State commissions and foreign-based alphabet organizations have been playing tug-o-war over officials for years. Until November 22, they've always managed to compromise. What Florida and the WBC did was an invitation for disaster.

Engage in an egg fight long enough and one of those suckers is sure to explode all over your face. In other words, next time, boxing might not be so lucky.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

HOLYFIELD-TYSON

Mike Tyson was supposed to be our generation's answer to Dempsey, Louis, and Ali. But after watching his fight against Evander Holyfield, it's become obvious that our adoration had been severely misplaced. Little did we realize that the finest, most remarkable heavyweight of the past 10 years was right under our noses the whole time.

It was so easy to write Holyfield off as just another footnote in boxing history. Yet it was this same man who kept surprising us again and again. In retrospect, I wonder why we were so inclined to worship Tyson for his so-what wins over guys like Tony Tubbs and Frank Bruno.

Everyone seemed to be blind to the fact that Holyfield was consistently facing a much higher grade of opposition, quietly developing the skills that helped him topple Tyson. Evander, we're sorry for not recognizing your greatness earlier. Dempsey, Louis, and Ali would be proud.

PAUL S. MINNIS
Evansville, IN

It's the morning after the fight, and I'm still living a dream. Holyfield did what he had to do. You guys must be very surprised. How about that prediction you made, Tyson over Holyfield in one round? I think Holyfield deserves an apology for that disrespectful prediction.

Holyfield has cemented his place in history. No longer will we hear about him being a blown-up cruiserweight. His victory over Tyson stands as a testimony to his endurance, determination, and boxing ability. Now I only hope he retires. He's already proven he's the best heavyweight of his generation.

Thank you, Evander, for reminding us how great our sport can be.

By the way, how about a 100-page special on Holyfield, with exclusive photos of his house? Good idea, fellas?

DAVE SILBERG
Boston, MA

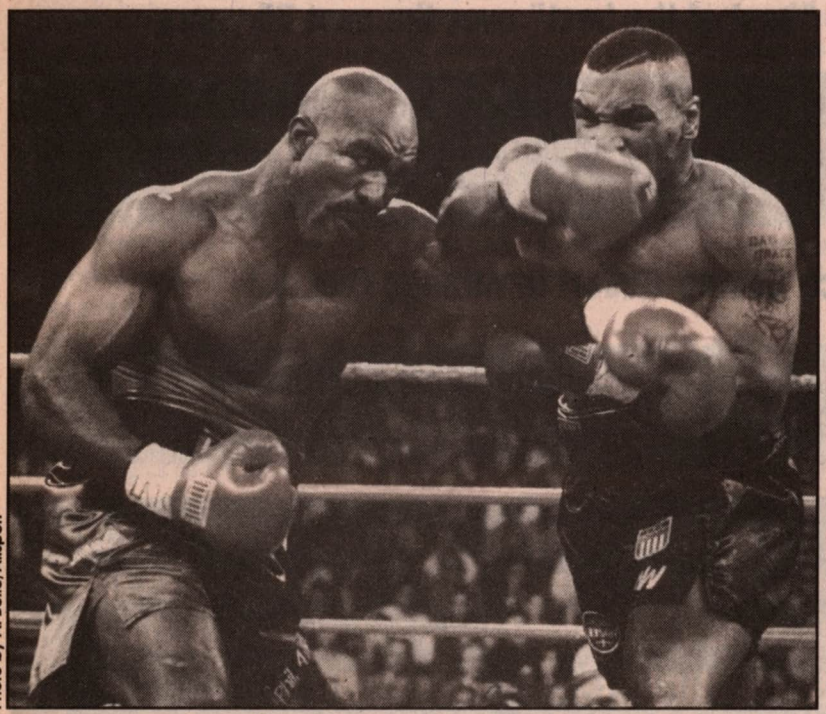


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

There was a common thread to most of the letters we received on the Holyfield-Tyson fight: The readers thanked Holyfield for making them feel good about boxing again.

Holyfield is, and will always be, "The Real Deal." The hype and big money wasted in the promotions of two previous Tyson title fights proved fans around the world had fallen for the scams and politics of boxing. As a result, over the course of four fights we never got to see what the baddest man on the planet was made of. It's about time we open our eyes to what it really takes to be a sport hero—a burning desire to face adversity and overpower it.

Many thanks to Evander Holyfield.

SASHA SAIBI
San Francisco, CA

THE 100 BEST TITLE FIGHTS

Regarding "The 100 Greatest Title Fights Of All-Time" (Holiday 1996), how could you leave off Dempsey-Tunney II? Not only was it an action fight, but it was also the most dramatic and talked-about fight in boxing history. Don't even try to convince me that Sugar Ray Robinson-Rocky Graziano or Bobo Olson-Kid Gavilan were better fights.

JIM SANDERSON
Southfield, MI

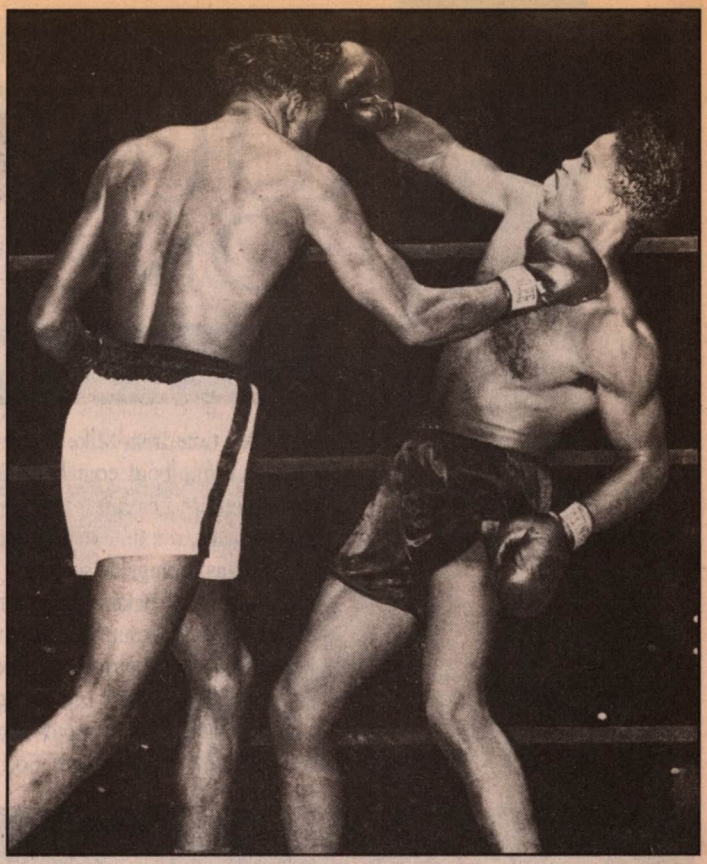
Surely it was an oversight excluding Tunney-Dempsey II. Did you forget "The Long Count"?

Also, anyone who saw Patterson-Johansson III (ranked 31st) recalls that the real contest involved which fighter would prove to be more inept.

Another fight that should've made the list: Holmes-Shavers II.

H.R. COURSEN
Brunswick, ME

(Editor's Note: Dempsey-Tunney II was indeed much-talked about. But an action fight? The seventh and eighth rounds aside, it was also much ado about nothing, with Tunney cautiously outboxing Dempsey.)



Among the bouts some readers wanted on our list of the 100 greatest title fights of all-time was Kid Gavilan's welterweight title defense against Gil Turner.

Your story on the 100 greatest title fights was perfect bait for drawing readers' opinions. Okay, I'll play along.

Listed were quite a few one-sided bouts that were salvaged by dramatic final-round knockouts (Weaver-Tate, LaMotta-Dauthuille, Chavez-Taylor). These fights should not be rated so highly. A fantastic finish does not make up for the less than memorable activity that precedes it.

I feel Dempsey-Firpo should have been at the very top of the list. (It was listed number three.) How can a see-saw heavyweight championship fight featuring 11 knockdowns *not* be ranked first?

Two complaints: Where was Leonard-Benitez, which included some of the most skillful displays of boxing I've ever had the pleasure to watch? And how about Hagler-Mugabi, a highly anticipated fight that lived up to its billing?

JOHN ROBERTSON
Cambridge, Ontario

Thomas Hearns and Sugar Ray Leonard square off before their second shootout. Was their rematch one of the 100 greatest title fights ever?

I think you blew it picking Ali-Frazier III as number one. It was a great fight, but my pick is the greatest upset of all-time, Douglas-Tyson, which you ranked 44th. You said you looked for fights filled with action, changes in momentum, a fast pace, a dramatic ending, and significance. Douglas-Tyson scores a 10 on all counts. It was an action-packed fight, and Tyson brought on a quick change in momentum with his uppercut knockdown in round eight. It was also a fast-paced fight, with many punches thrown by two big heavyweights. The ending was quite dramatic, with the baddest man on the planet on all fours, his mouthpiece hanging backward in his mouth. How significant was the fight? It was for the *undisputed* heavyweight title.

Douglas-Tyson was the greatest upset of all-time *and* the greatest title fight of all-time.

MARK CORNETT
Redondo Beach, CA

"The Rumble In The Jungle" at number 33? One notch ahead of Herrera-Borkorsor? I'm not a detail-oriented person, but this ranking was so out of whack that I couldn't help but notice.

PAUL SEKULA
Arlington, VA ■

ROUND ONE

APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE

The last time Irish Mike Baker was center-stage, he knocked out one John Boys in May 1995. That was a one-bout comeback for the former junior middleweight contender, then 43; Baker hadn't fought in 11 years.

Well, folks, it's time to buy another ticket. Baker's back, but this time, the applause isn't coming from fans in ringside seats, but rather audiences who have paid to see him act.

In November, Baker engaged in a run as the trainer Army in *Requiem For A Heavyweight* at the Chevy Chase Community Center in Washington, D.C. (The movie role was played by Mickey Rooney.) The story, written by Rod Serling, centers on a heavyweight who can't acknowledge that his career is over. "It's my acting debut," Baker says proudly in his South Carolina drawl. "A friend of mine told the director about me, that I used to be a fighter and to consider me, you know, to give the play some realism. So I figured I had a part. I went down to an audition and the director gave me a call back. I had gotten it.

Photo by David M. Meltzer

Mike Baker (left) in Requiem For A Heavyweight

"He also said he had never heard of my friend, that he had no idea what I was talking about, and that I had earned the part just like all the other actors."

Baker's new career aside—in December, he was to take a screen test for a role on the NBC series *Homicide*—this is not your average former pug. As a contending 154-pounder, Baker was co-managed by legendary trial lawyer Edward Bennett Williams and Washington Redskins football coach George Allen, making him, according to a press release, "the only boxer ever owned by an NFL team." A recovering alcoholic, he now works as a supervisor in the U.S. Senate mail room, lives in a houseboat on the Potomac River, composes music, and plays chess professionally. In fact, he's won competitions sponsored by the U.S. Chess Federation.

Parallels? "Boxing is a lot like chess," Baker reflects. "Obviously, it's not as physical, but it's the same mental game. And every good liar should be able to act. Seriously, [acting and boxing] are not that dissimilar. You have to be ready to mount a performance, to be thinking about what you will do up there. I am really thrilled, each and every day, to be doing it, especially with this play. It really hits home. There's a character in *Requiem* who, like me, was never knocked out. I can relate to him."

–Cathy Grubman

FROM HOSPITAL GOWNS TO RING APRONS

On St. Patrick Day's night, 1995, southpaw welterweight Romallis Ellis won a 10-round decision over Humberto Aranda in Boston, then flew to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he was to celebrate his victory and plot the direction of his career.

While crossing a street late the next evening, Ellis saw a car barrelling toward him. "He tried to hit me," he said, with more than a hint of bitterness. "I tried to run to make it to the side of the street, but he sped up, too. I didn't make it. I leaped at the last second, and the car hit the lower part of my leg. Then I landed on my head. If I hadn't jumped, he would've run me over."

The driver, who fled the scene, was later found intoxicated and taken into custody. Ellis was taken to the hospital. His left leg was broken in two places, and doctors inserted a metal rod to fuse the bones together. His left rotator cuff was severely torn, which required surgery as well, and his head had to be stapled up. He asked if he'd ever box again. "They were telling me, 'Don't worry about that; just try to get yourself back together,'" said Ellis. "They really didn't know."

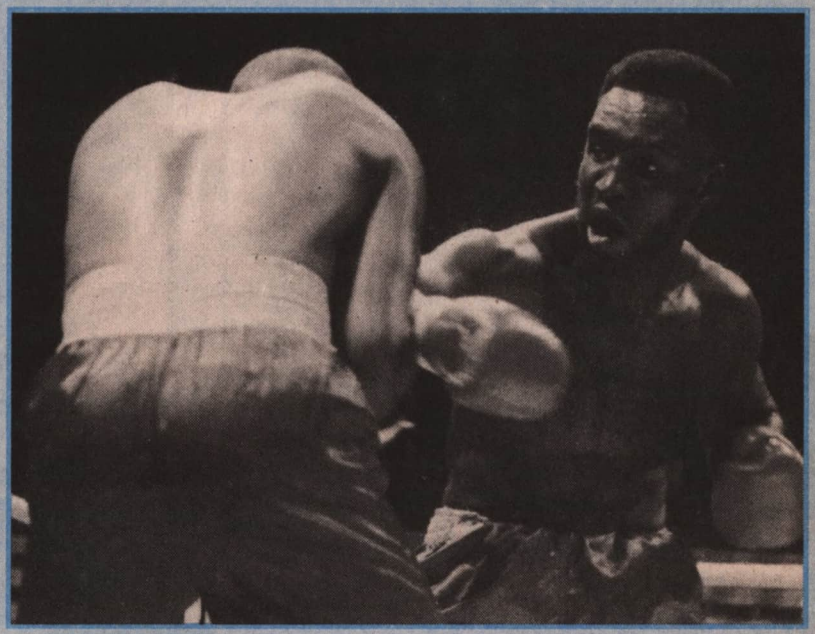
After spending a month in a wheelchair, the 1988 Olympic bronze medalist was able to walk again. Soon he was running and jumping rope, and before long he was back in training. Without a limp or shoulder pain, the former fringe contender eyed a comeback.

Having been inactive for 18 months, Ellis accepted a bout in October with gritty veteran Pedro Sanchez, a contender ranked in the top 10 of the WBA and WBC. Without a tuneup bout, it seemed a risky proposition, especially on less than three weeks notice. "I could've fought a bum," Ellis, 30, explained, "but that wouldn't have given me a realistic vision of where I was in boxing. Plus, I knew Pedro would help me get in the rankings faster."

Ellis-Sanchez was televised on the USA Network's *Tuesday Night Fights*. Ellis started quickly, but was exhausted after five rounds. As the TV cameras zoomed in, he nearly fell off his stool, only to be propped up by cornermen Teddy Grice and Luis Camacho, who pleaded with referee Elmo Adolph to let the bout continue.

"I wanted Pedro to see me in the corner, tired and out of shape, so that he'd come out and rush me," Ellis insisted. "I wanted him to burn himself out so that I could knock him out. I was dead-tired, though. I must admit that."

Remarkably, the strategy worked. Though Sanchez rallied from the sixth through the ninth, Ellis, 23-1 (18), caught him with a left in the 10th. After watching Sanchez absorb too many unanswered shots, Adolph called a halt 37 seconds before the final bell—and with Ellis trailing on all three cards.



Ellis: A comeback, followed by a comeback

Afterward, Ellis said, "I want to win a world championship of any sort, either at junior welterweight or welterweight." Then, whimsically thinking aloud, he added, "I'm back."

–Geoff Fox

FADED GENES?

After he won the National PAL light heavyweight title in October, Limmie Young was asked if he tries to imitate his grandfather in the ring.

"No, I can't," he answered. "There's only one Joe Louis. There's no use in even trying to box like him."

The 24-year-old Young, who is based in Las Vegas, is among the USA's top 178-pounders. His mother, Amber, is the daughter of "The Brown Bomber."

Another world title in the family would be nice, but it isn't Young's top priority. Asked about his ambition, he said, "First, to raise my son to be as humane as possible in this inhumane society, and maybe become a light heavyweight world champion, if I can fit it into my schedule."

–Pete Ehrmann

THE FIVE *OTHER* FIGHTS MIKE TYSON DOESN'T REMEMBER

5. A disastrous sparring session with Christy Martin, after which a battered Tyson screamed at her, "I can still kick your *husband's* butt!"
4. A prison yard rumble over a pack of cigarettes. After failing to move an inmate called Tiny with his best right hand, "Iron Mike" made peace by promising his rival 10,000 shares of Phillip Morris upon his release. Talk about insider trading.
3. An argument with a tabloid boxing writer, during which an infuriated Tyson shouted, "You know what I do with your paper? I wipe my a__!", and the scribe responded, "Finally! A Tyson exclusive!"
2. A nasty dispute over money with Don King, who got his way by promising to give Tyson a percentage of the pay-per-view revenues generated by the upcoming Jacksons' Victory Tour II.
1. A classroom tiff in kindergarten during which little Mike, after getting poked in the eye, looked to the teacher to break it up.

Martin and Tyson: About that sparring session ...

KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON

Why do older fighters keep answering that call to arms? We aren't going to try and answer that question because we have only a couple of paragraphs, and not 100 pages, to play with. Instead, we'll tell you about the latest endeavors of two of them.

On November 3, George Foreman, 47, outpointed Crawford Grimsley, 29, over 12 rounds at Tokyo Bay NK Hall. Grimsley, 20-1 (18), threatened early, but he's no 12-round fighter, and as soon as Big George warmed up, he clubbed his way to an uneventful unanimous decision victory (scores of 119-109, 117-111, and 116-112). Six nights later, Foreman, 75-4 (67), was a loser when Evander Holyfield upset Mike Tyson. A showdown with Tyson was the grand finale Foreman was seeking.

Canadian correspondent Warren Tasker was ringside for former light heavyweight champion Donny Lalonde's first fight in 4½ years. At Memorial Arena in Victoria, British Columbia, Lalonde, 36, scored a unanimous eight-round decision over Big Ed Dalton, 12-3-2 (4).

Reports Tasker: "Gone are the bleach-blond locks and glamour-boy smile. Now a father of two and a nightclub owner, Lalonde is wearing his naturally brown hair close-cropped and is a great deal more serious in and out of the ring."

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

For Foreman, Grimsley was no pushover

Oh, yeah, the fight. Writes Tasker: "Lalonde, 36-4 (30), displayed his world-class right cross by knocking the free-swinging Dalton down in the first round. But a partially torn left rotator cuff turned him into a one-armed fighter, and he had to fend off the mauling Dalton for eight rounds."

Lalonde plans to continue after healing. What he'd really like is a rematch with Sugar Ray Leonard.

What year is this anyway?

A BOXING BUST

Gabrielle Barnett believes you can tell a lot about someone from his or her hands. An exception is former middleweight champion Jake LaMotta, who was a recent subject of the Long Island-based sculptor. Barnett was commissioned to sculpt a bust of "The Raging Bull" in 1992, and in September, she hand-casted LaMotta's notoriously small fists.

"Jake's hands don't show violence, they show affection," she said. "I hate to say this, but they're almost feminine. They're very smooth and very delicate. It's remarkable that those fists were able to do so much damage."

LaMotta got plastered, and ended up a bust

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

The **Evander Holyfield-Mike Tyson** fight set a record of the biggest gate in boxing history. The 16,103 fans in attendance paid $14,150,700, breaking the mark set by **Tyson-Peter McNeeley**, which produced a gate of $13,965,600 ... Italian middleweight **Fabrizio De Chiara**, 25, was taken off life support and declared dead two days after sustaining head injuries in his national title fight with **Vincenzo Imparato**. De Chiara had been stopped in the 12th and final round.

THE PUNCHLINES

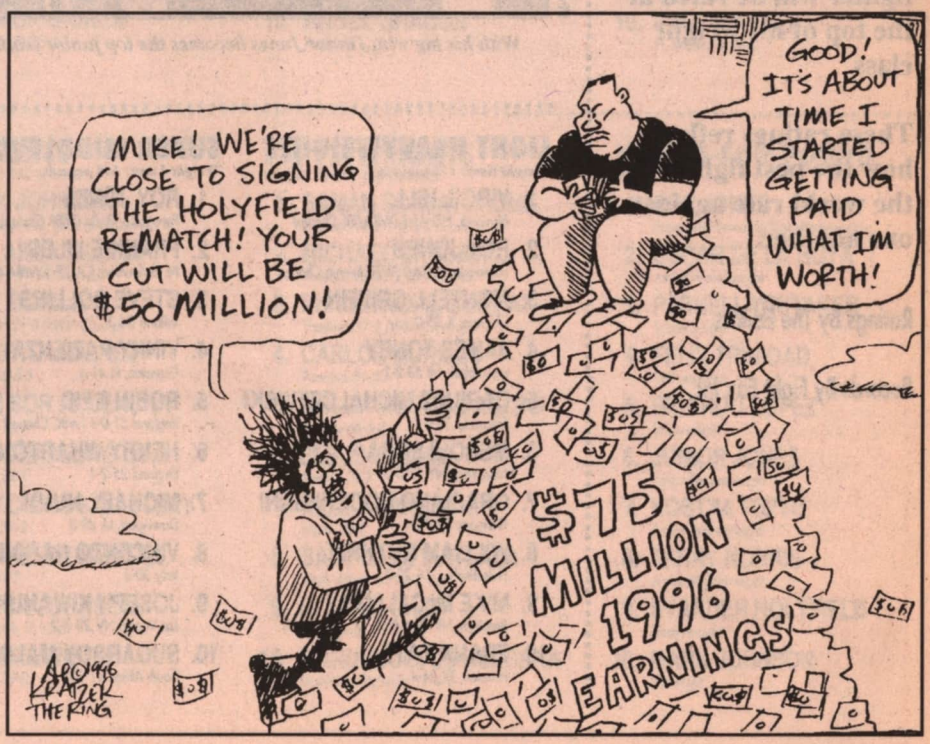
"Me and her mother, we joke and laugh, but we just hope that we don't have to kill this guy."

–Mike Tyson, during an *Inside Edition* interview with Roseanne, on the idea of his eight-month-old daughter dating when she becomes a teenager

"Can't believe this report that one of the kids busted in the BC [Boston College] scandal is Don King's grandson. I mean, if he were really related to DK, he wouldn't have gotten caught."

–Mark Kriegel, columnist, New York *Daily News*

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended December 5, 1996

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

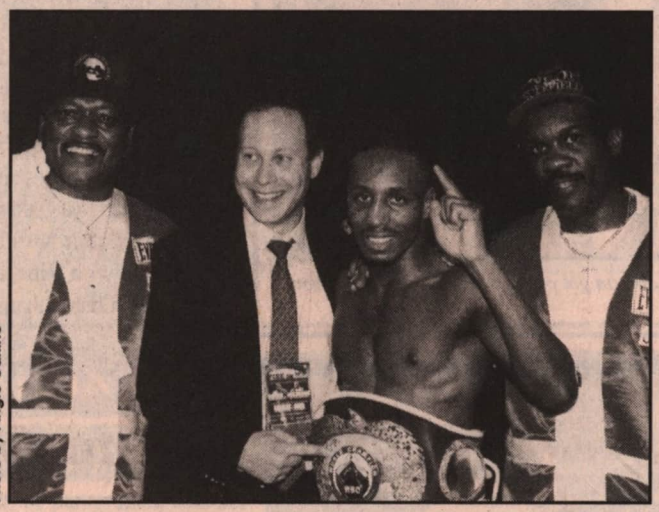


Photo by Angie Carlino

With his big win, Junior Jones becomes the top junior featherweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Atlanta, GA *33-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *29-1*
3. **RIDDICK BOWE** Fort Washington, MD *39-1*
4. **MIKE TYSON** Southington, OH *45-1*
5. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *37-1 (IBF Champ)*
6. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *28-1*
7. **TIM WITHERSPOON** Philadelphia, PA *45-4*
8. **HENRY AKINWANDE** England *30-0-1*
9. **OLIVER McCALL** Chicago, IL *28-6*
10. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *25-0*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA *28-4 (WBA Champ)*
2. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY *26-3-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *20-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *34-1*
5. **ALEXANDER GUROV** Ukraine *18-1-1*
6. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *34-1*
7. **CARL THOMPSON** England *20-4*
8. **DAVID IZEQWIRE** Washington, D.C. *19-1*
9. **TORSTEN MAY** Germany *15-1*
10. **YOSUKEZAN NISHIJIMA** Japan *16-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *43-1 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *34-0 (WBC Interim Champ)*
3. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *25-0*
4. **JAMES TONEY** Ann Arbor, MI *53-2-2*
5. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *31-0-1*
6. **MERQUI SOSA** New York, NY *27-5-2*
7. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *38-3-2*
8. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA *22-0*
9. **MIKE McCALLUM** Brooklyn, NY *49-4-1*
10. **FRANK TATE** Houston, TX *36-4*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *34-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *29-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **STEVE COLLINS** Ireland *34-3*
4. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *41-6*
5. **ROBIN REID** England *21-0-1 (WBC Champ)*
6. **HENRY WHARTON** England *25-2-1*
7. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *49-3*
8. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** Italy *30-6*
9. **JOSEPH KIWANUKA** Las Vegas, NV *22-1-2*
10. **SUGARBOY MALINGA** South Africa *41-10*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *30-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *29-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *23-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY *25-0*
5. **JORGE CASTRO** Argentina *100-5-2*
6. **QUINCY TAYLOR** Dallas, TX *26-4*
7. **DANA ROSENBLATT** Malden, MA *28-1*
8. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *28-1*
9. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** Seattle, WA *35-2*
10. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England *28-0*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *44-6 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *33-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *56-3*
4. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *36-1*
5. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO *36-2*
6. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *29-2*
7. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
   Orlando, FL *63-3*
8. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
   Houston, TX *23-0*
9. **EMMETT LINTON**
   Tacoma, WA *22-2*
10. **ANTHONY STEPHENS**
    Shreveport, LA *28-7-2*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *39-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *30-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *33-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *37-3-1*
5. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *37-2*
6. **PATRICK CHARPENTIER**
   France *23-4*
7. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *22-2-1*
8. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *64-2*
9. **PATRICK COLEMAN**
   Chicago, IL *25-5*
10. **JOSE LUIS NAVARRO**
    Spain *22-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *22-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *18-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *53-4-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *97-2-1*
5. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *41-0*
6. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *38-3*
7. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France *28-2*
8. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Studio City, CA *47-3*
9. **FRED PENDLETON**
   Miami, FL *41-21-4*
10. **SOREN SONDERGAARD**
    Denmark *28-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *23-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *19-0*
3. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *29-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *30-1*
5. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *49-5-2 (WBC Champ)*
6. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *20-0*
7. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ *26-1-1*
8. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *39-4*
9. **ARTUR GRIGORJAN**
   Uzbekistan *21-0*
10. **IVAN ROBINSON**
    Delran, NJ *23-0*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *39-3-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *24-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *34-1-1*
4. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *56-4-1*
5. **REGGIE TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY *42-3-1*
6. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *21-2 (WBA Champ)*
7. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *43-3*
8. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *26-0*
9. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France *33-0*
10. **ANATOLY ALEXANDROV**
    Kazakhstan *28-3*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *44-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines *40-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *24-0*
4. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *48-7-3 (WBA Champ)*
5. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *46-1-2*
6. **EVER BELENO**
   Colombia *34-2*
7. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *39-2*
8. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico *17-1*
9. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico *52-8*
10. **DERRICK GAINER**
    Pensacola, FL *18-4*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *42-2*
2. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *53-7-3 (WBC Champ)*
3. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *31-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *43-1*
5. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *30-2-1*
6. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *24-1 (WBA Champ)*
7. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *24-0*
8. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *43-3-1*
9. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
   Mexico *19-0*
10. **ANGEL CHACON**
    Puerto Rico *21-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *20-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *21-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *35-1*
4. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *58-5-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASUI**
   Thailand *12-0 (Interim WBC Champ)*
6. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *36-3*
7. **ANCEE GEDEON**
   Westminster, CA *14-8-1*
8. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *5-1*
9. **ROBBIE REGAN**
   Wales *17-2-3*
10. **PAULIE AYALA**
    Ft. Worth, TX *18-0*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan *20-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *38-0-2*
3. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *29-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *12-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *34-1-1*
6. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-6*
7. **ALIMI GOITIA**
   Venezuela *15-1*
8. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *21-2*
9. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *23-0*
10. **POLO SAUCEDO**
    Houston, TX *12-3-1*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *30-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *21-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico *32-3-3*
5. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *26-1*
6. **CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM**
   Thailand *24-1*
7. **CHOKCHAI 3-K BATTERY**
   Thailand *31-2*
8. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *33-2*
9. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
   East St. Louis, IL *13-3*
10. **JESPER JENSEN**
    Denmark *19-0*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *32-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *42-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **PHICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *17-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **CARLOS MURILLO**
   Panama *31-3*
5. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *46-5-4*
6. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico *29-7*
7. **KEIJI YAMAGUCHI**
   Japan *20-2*
8. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *44-10-2*
9. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea *19-2*
10. **MANUEL JESUS HERRERA**
    Dominican Republic *17-4-1*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **ROY JONES**
   Super Middleweight/Light Heavyweight
2. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Junior Welterweight
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
6. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Junior Featherweight
7. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
8. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Junior Middleweight
9. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Heavyweight
10. **MARK JOHNSON**
    Flyweight

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Oct. 1983: Special Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Jose Sulaiman, Milton McCrory, Camacho-Limon, DeLeon-Gordon, Hamsho-Benitez, who's who, Bill McNeese.

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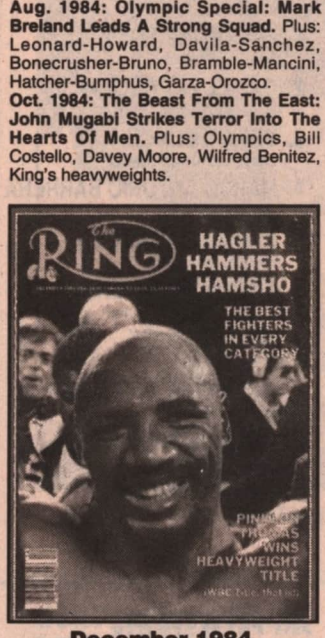
July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.



December 1984

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lu Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fig That Refused To Die. Plus: The ne *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, Georg Foreman's return, Khaosai Galax Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweathe

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Styl Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonal Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Loo Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thoma Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Hamil Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fam Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweigh Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar

Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

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Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

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Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

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RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

HIGH HOLY DAYS

Weeks after Evander Holyfield taught even Siegfried and Roy a few things about how to work magic on the Las Vegas Strip, it was still difficult to believe the miracle at the MGM had unfolded the way it did. Let's pause once more and think about this: The Atlanta brave, 4-3 in his previous seven outings and thought to be suffering from delusions that could only leave him with contusions, pulled off one of history's greatest upsets—after matter-of-factly guaranteeing it! Here we were thinking Holyfield had become Joe Palooka, and he turned out to be Joe Namath.

Now that everyone's heart rate has returned to normal, the laughter has died down in the sports bars, Don King's migraine has gone away, and the chips knocked off the shoulders of Mike Tyson and his hangers-on have been swept up from the floor of the MGM Grand Garden, this is a good time to reflect on the events of November 9 and take a look at how they might affect the future.

One man's observations:

•In attempting to establish himself as an all-time great big man, Holyfield is apparently also trying to empty his spit bucket on the two criticisms historians were always likely to hold against him: that he has never been a legitimate heavyweight, and that he can't punch. The heavily muscled, 215-pound "Real Deal" was big enough to repeatedly back up the 6'5", 250-pound Riddick Bowe in their three bouts, and in the trenches he effectively pushed around Tyson, a fighter considered to be the division's strongest.

And although the 34-year-old Bible-belter will never be known for his wallop, he seems to be hitting harder as he gets older. Tyson may have been off-balance when he was floored with a bodyshot in the sixth round, but the punch was still forceful enough to take him off his feet. Consider this: In the past two years, Holyfield has dropped Tyson, Bowe, and Ray Mercer, durable big men who had been floored a combined one time in a total of 111 pro bouts before they got caught by Holyfield.

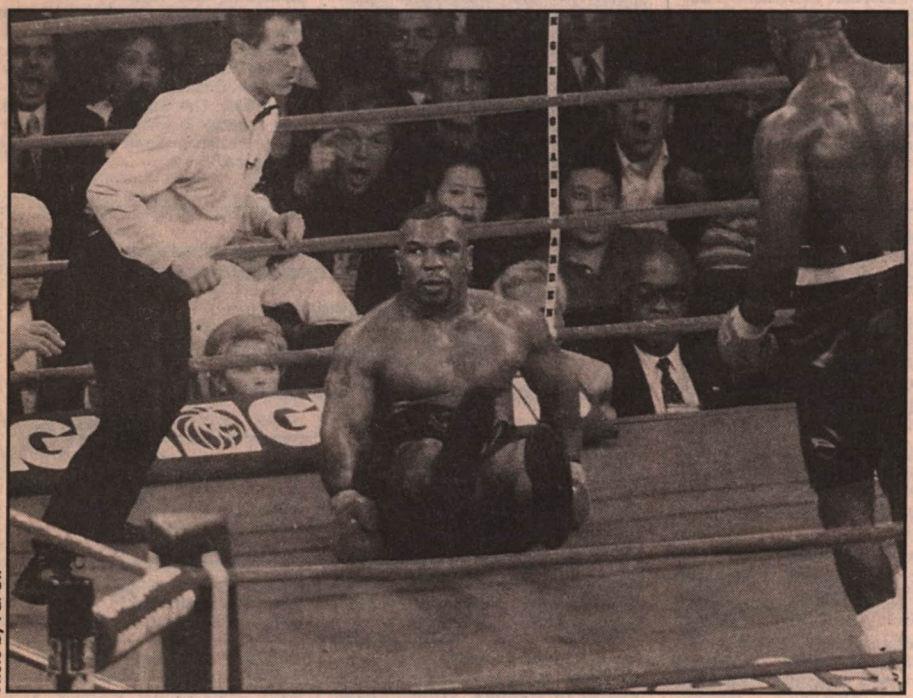

Photo by Pat Orr

Boom! *Was that a blown-up cruiserweight without legitimate punching power who put Tyson on his fanny in round six? Holyfield has now floored Tyson, Riddick Bowe, and Ray Mercer, steel chins all.*

•A rematch is inevitable for two reasons. First, The Holy Man can make more money against Tyson than he can for a fourth Bowe fight or a Michael Moorer rematch. Second, the new champion, a man of decency, is grateful for the opportunity Tyson granted him and feels compelled to return the favor.

•The purist in me thinks Holyfield might want to make Tyson wait a while, and take on George Foreman first. Why—*ugh!*—Foreman of all people? Like it or not, he's still the linear titlist, and for Holyfield, he represents an easy $20-million payday.

•Nobody should be rebuked for call-

ing the outcome of Holyfield-Tyson a triumph of good over evil because Tyson cultivated his gangsta image as consciously as Holyfield worked to portray himself as a God-fearing Christian. Leg-Iron Mike surrounded himself with hoods and loudmouths, never bothering to silence them or distance himself from their predictions that Holyfield would be both sexually assaulted and killed by Tyson on fight night.

•Assuming his differences with the flaky Kevin Rooney are indeed irreconcilable, and that Eddie Futch doesn't want the headache at this stage of his life, there is no better trainer Tyson can hire than Philadelphia sage George Benton. If the rumors of such a pairing are true, Tyson has already taken a gargantuan step in his rebuilding process.

•Will Tyson ever again be the fear-inspiring assassin he was before Holyfield undressed him? No. Will he ever again wear one of the big three (WBA, WBC, IBF) title belts? Absolutely. "Kid Dynamite" will remain a force in the division on punching power alone.

•As shocking as the outcome was, Holyfield's upset was not of the magnitude of Buster Douglas' win in Tokyo. For starters, the odds against Holyfield were 6-1, not 42-1. And while Douglas had entered his Tyson fight with the reputation of a guy who had quit in two of his losses, there wasn't anyone who didn't think Holyfield, a two-time titlist, would give maximum effort for as long as he remained standing.

•Holyfield's victory will give the fight game some badly needed positive press and create interesting plotlines in the heavyweight ranks again, but it's not going to reverse the sport's downward spiral, one caused by too many fractured titles, interfering governing bodies, sideshow promotions, and bad matchups. The casual fan may be able to tell his neighbor who dethroned Tyson, but he still won't be able to identify the middleweight champion or tell you what a super cruiserweight weighs.

•When Tyson was a rising contender and Larry Holmes predicted his downfall, we all labeled Holmes classless and jealous. Do you remember what Holmes said at the time? He predicted Tyson would end up in prison one day, and that Iron Mike would enjoy a brief prime because stocky, short-armed, relentlessly aggressive heavyweights inevitably burn out from having to work so hard during combat.

•In a private conversation we had nine years ago, Tyson told me his late trainer, Cus D'Amato, had warned him that a great old fighter is always capable of summoning one more super effort long after he is thought to be used-up. Tyson was referring at the time to his upcoming clash with Holmes, but D'Amato's words came to mind when it became obvious that the Holyfield clobbering Tyson wasn't the same retread we had seen get stopped by Bowe and look ordinary against Bobby Czyz.

•Tyson trainer Jay Bright commented before the bout, "Holyfield will become confused and befuddled. It won't be long before he's hurt. I'd like to see how far his heart takes him." It's funny how Bright always knows what to say before a fight, but never knows what to say in the corner during one.

•Did you check out the expressions on the faces of Tyson, King, Bright, and co-managers Rory Holloway and John Horne after the shocker? Team Tyson should be renamed Grand Funk.

•Wasn't it great, by the way, to see the traps of Horne and Holloway slammed shut? We haven't heard a Horne rendered this quiet since Ralph Kramden got a sock stuck in his coronet.

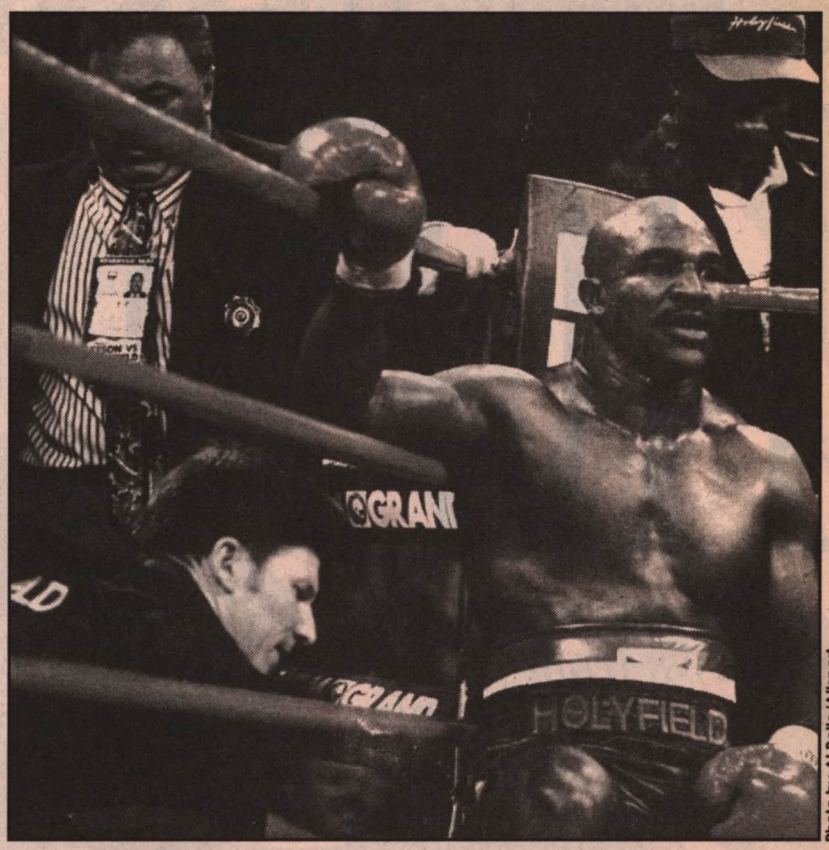

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

What gave Holyfield the strength to overcome a force like Tyson, especially at this stage of "The Real Deal's" career? Cus D'Amato had warned Tyson that great old fighters are always capable of one last super effort, and his words proved true.

•Say this for Tyson, though: He was a true sportsman in defeat.

•Yes, Holyfield talks a lot about religion, but the man was inspired by his faith. Whether you like his way of thinking or not, he truly believed God wasn't going to let him lose to someone of Tyson's character. Ask Holyfield why he was so confident, how he was able to endure those uppercuts, and why he never tired, and he's convinced the Lord had a lot to do with it. If that makes the politically correct crowd uncomfortable, too bad. Should Holyfield lie and tell everyone that he was inspired by, say, the hometown folks in Atlanta, just because that's a more "acceptable" answer?

•History will view Holyfield kindly. Especially considering that he was a 6-1 (vs. Tyson) and 5-2 underdog (vs. Bowe) in two of the three fights in which he won a version of the heavyweight title.

•Following the unlikely drama of November 9, it's time for Holyfield to change his nickname. If he alerts his tailor now, he can get "The Surreal Deal" sewn on his robe in plenty of time for the rematch. ■

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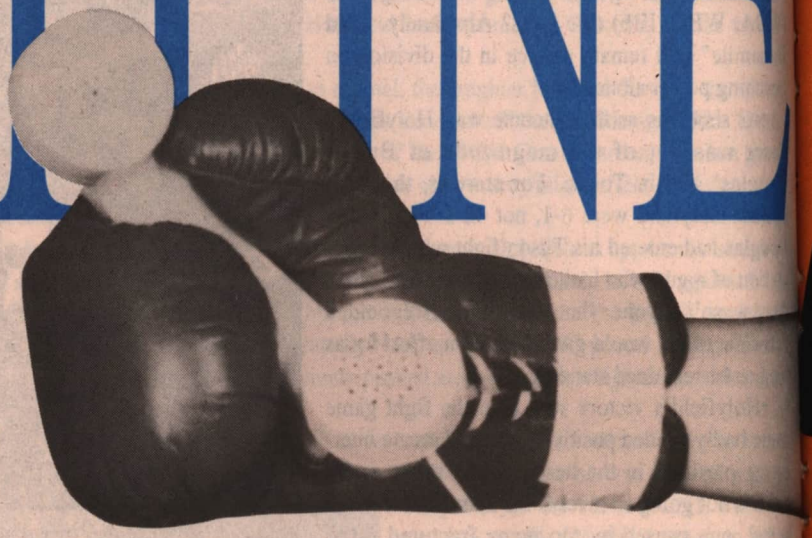

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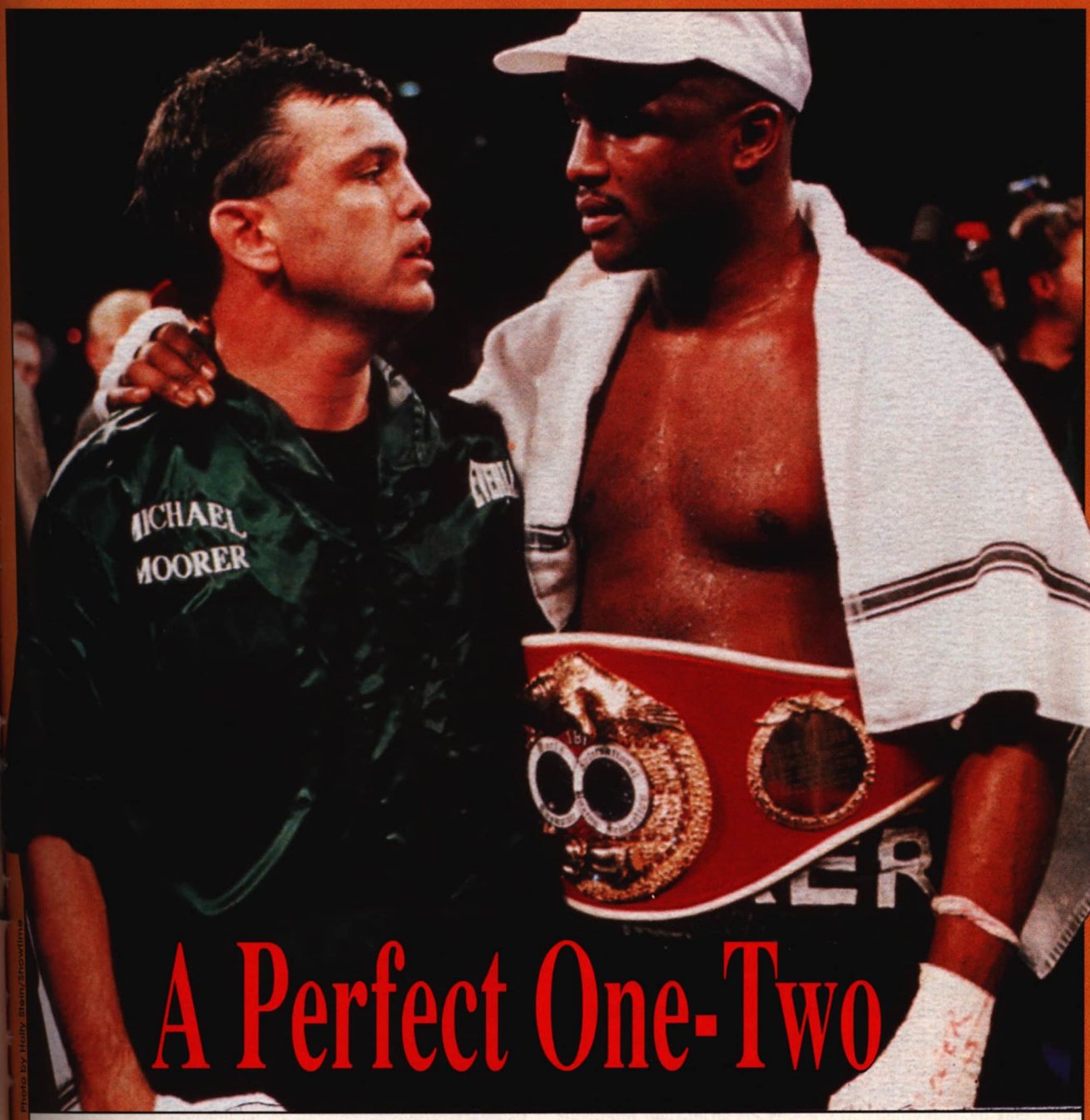


Photo by Holly Stein/Showtime

A Perfect One-Two

ATLAS: TOO DEMANDING MOORER: TOO UNYIELDING

By Eric Singer

Sonny and Cher. Oscar and Felix. Abbott and Costello. *Michael and Teddy?*

There have always been pairings that evoke paradoxical images of compatibility and combustibility, duets capable of making beautiful music together one minute, and discordant sounds of friction the next. Tandems that soar to great heights of success while dangling perilously close to chaos.

Boxing's most famous odd couple remains Michael Moorer, the safety-first, low-key IBF heavyweight champion, and Teddy Atlas, his intense, in-your-face trainer. The stark contrast between fighter and teacher was epitomized by Moorer's most recent defense, a 12th-round TKO of Frans Botha on the

Though Moorer rearranged the features of Frans Botha (right), trainer Atlas felt the IBF champion could have worked harder. Moorer kept the title by flooring the South African (below) and halting him in the 12th round.

Photos by Al Bello/Allsport

Holyfield-Tyson card in November.

As is often the case with Moorer, he suffered lapses of concentration, allowing an inferior opponent to, at times, control the action. Once again it became necessary for the fiery Atlas to light a flame under his reluctant charge and continually stroke it throughout the bout. Time and again the minute rest period provided fans the opportunity to see why, as an in-fight motivator, Atlas is without peer. Repeatedly challenging Moorer to push himself and to leave no regrets for tomorrow, the trainer capped off his penchant for the dramatic by beckoning referee Mills Lane to the champion's corner following round seven. He then told his fighter that if Moorer didn't start fighting, he would ask the startled Lane to stop the fight.

As they have in the past, Atlas' histrionics played a crucial role in a Moorer victory. "I know my fighter," explained Atlas. "I have a pulse on what's going on, and I act accordingly. I saw that pattern that he was falling into, and I felt I needed, at that point, to act."

Although both were suitably impressed with the result of the bout, the way each saw how victory had been achieved is indicative of their disparate personalities. "In the end, I thought he was terrific, [but] he had his moments in the early and middle parts of the fight where once again he fell into a mode where he became too reserved and allowed the fight to become tougher than his talent should have allowed it to become," assessed Atlas. "At the end, Michael showed all the courage, character, desire, moxie, and all the talent of a world champion. I just wish he wouldn't make it that hard and he would gain the confidence to know that he's capable of doing that all the way through a fight."

"I thought I fought an excellent fight," said Moorer. "I was in control for a long time. He was a game guy, but I think I did what I had to do to win."

So it has been between trainer and fighter ever since Moorer's manager, John Davimos, first paired the two in 1993. Moorer had already been through some of the finest trainers in the business, among them Emanuel Steward and George Benton, when Atlas came aboard. The southpaw had earned a reputation for being headstrong and non-compliant; Atlas carried with him a reputation for being too demanding and unyielding. As would two fine prize fighters, they tested one another often to gauge whether each had the necessary commitment to snare the sport's most prestigious title, the heavyweight championship of the world.

"Putting them together was 100 percent my idea—and against everyone's advice," said Davimos. "Michael was an undisciplined

guy; Emanuel Steward and George Benton couldn't control him, and Teddy's reputation was that if he couldn't control you, he was gone. Reporters used to tell me the over-under [on how long the fighter and trainer would last together] was six weeks. Michael can be an intimidating, nasty guy, especially before. But he wanted to be champion, and he wanted a guy who would stand up to him. Teddy was Michael's last shot."

The skirmishes became most severe inside the cauldron that swallows participants engaging in title fights for the first time. Camp Moorer was Camp Turmoil prior to the heavyweight's challenge of then-WBA and IBF champion Holyfield in April 1994.

"We had some terrible battles right up until two weeks before the fight," recalled Atlas. "And all of a sudden it stopped. When I didn't bend after all the times he tested me, I finally won his belief. He said, 'This SOB—all the challenges, physical, emotional, me refusing to train—he stood up to all of them. He really believes in this thing.'"

With newfound harmony, Moorer was able to annex the titles. But his stunning kayo loss to George Foreman seven months later created a crisis that had to be overcome: repairing Moorer's damaged confidence.

As a light heavyweight, Moorer had been a terrifyingly destructive force, a left-hander with crippling punching power. As a heavyweight, though, self-doubts and a less-than-sturdy chin have made him much less aggressive, willing to sit back and counterpunch as often as he leads. His fine boxing skills are now his signature more than his ability to knock a man cold. A fighter who is already somewhat reluctant in the ring becomes positively gunshy when subjected to a shattering knockout.

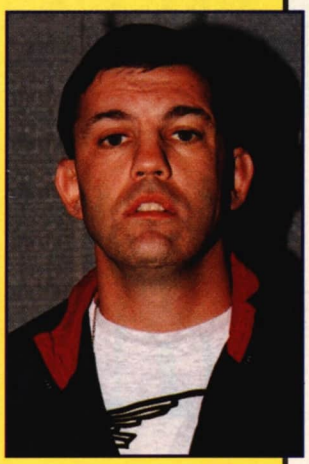
Photo by Teddy Blackburn

With Teddy Atlas and Lou Duva giving advice, Moorer's corner overflows with energy. Transferring that energy to the talented heavyweight has sometimes been a problem.

With Moorer's desire to continue his career in doubt, Atlas proved once again why he is perhaps the game's best trainer. It has long been established that the 40-year-old Staten Islander is a superb teacher of tactics. But it's his ability to strengthen a fighter's resolve, to plumb his psyche to create an iron will, that truly separates him from his contemporaries.

(Continued on page 69)

STUDENT vs. TEACHER



Atlas: The combative type

While in Las Vegas for the Moorer-Botha bout, Teddy Atlas engaged in a wild brawl at the weigh-in with Ricardo Salazar, a former fighter he once trained. According to Atlas, the long-brewing feud can be traced back to a simple disagreement over a car.

About seven or eight years ago, while Atlas was still Salazar's trainer, Atlas says the fighter had a disagreement with his manager, Mike Guadagno, over Salazar's desire to use Guadagno's car. Since Salazar was an uninsured driver at the time, Guadagno reportedly refused his request, spurring Salazar to leave him. Atlas' reaction, said the trainer, was, "You can't just leave someone after they took care of you for three years. That shows a lack of character." That's when Atlas decided he'd no longer train Salazar.

Atlas believes their rift deepened a couple of years ago when Salazar, who had become a writer, told him Don King was paying his way to King's big fights. Atlas' response was, "You can't call yourself a writer. A writer writes without being influenced."

Atlas insists that's the reason Salazar has recently written a number of unflattering stories about him for a boxing newspaper he publishes, *One More Round*. The trainer believes the articles are untrue and vindictive. Salazar responds, "I wrote what is the truth."

The two, who had a brief skirmish last May at Marciano's Gym in New Jersey, encountered each other again at the MGM Grand Garden, and a melee ensued.

"[At the weigh-in] he said, 'I'm not going to stop [writing negative articles], I'm going to destroy you,'" said Atlas. "At that point, I walked off the stage and I walked toward him. When I got near him, he lunged at me and we started fighting."

Moorer carried Atlas away from the scene; the trainer was bleeding from the chin. According to published reports, friends of Salazar said the writer suffered bite marks during the brawl.

Salazar is considering taking legal action against Atlas and said he'd rather not comment on their history together. About their altercation, he said, "I was attacked by him. That's a fact."

–ES

MIKE TYSON:

CAN HE RECLAIM HIS GREATNESS?

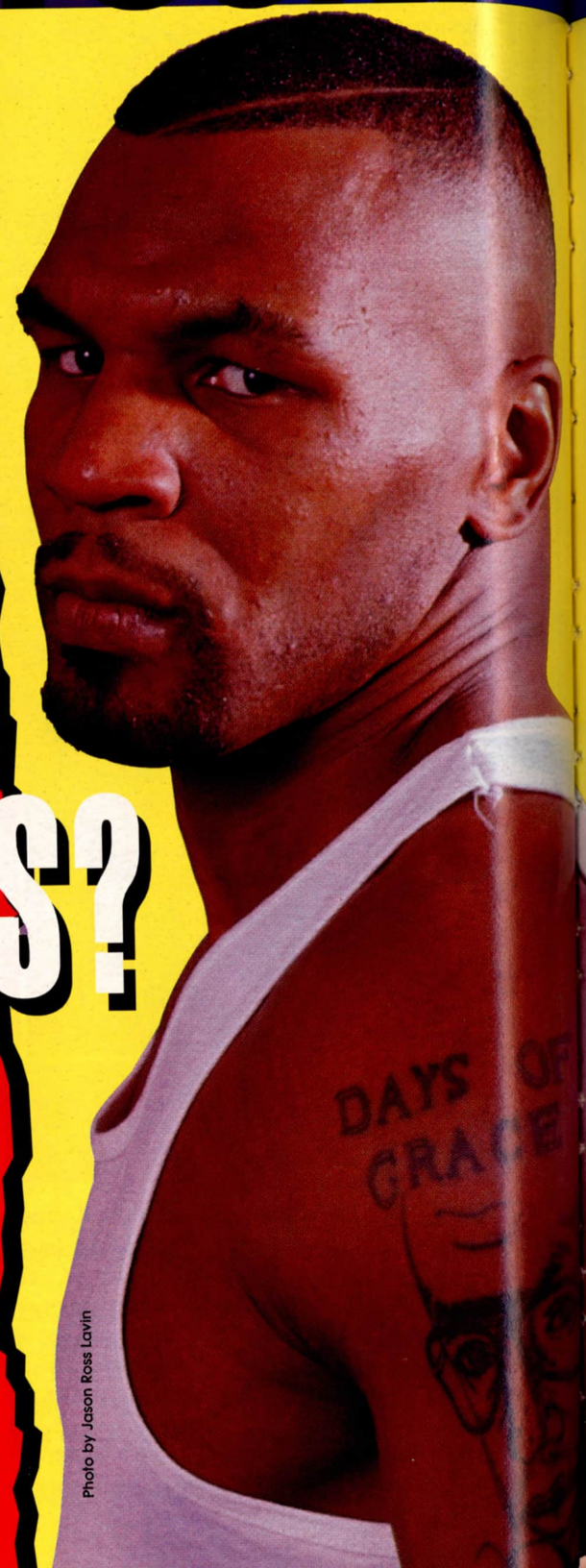


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

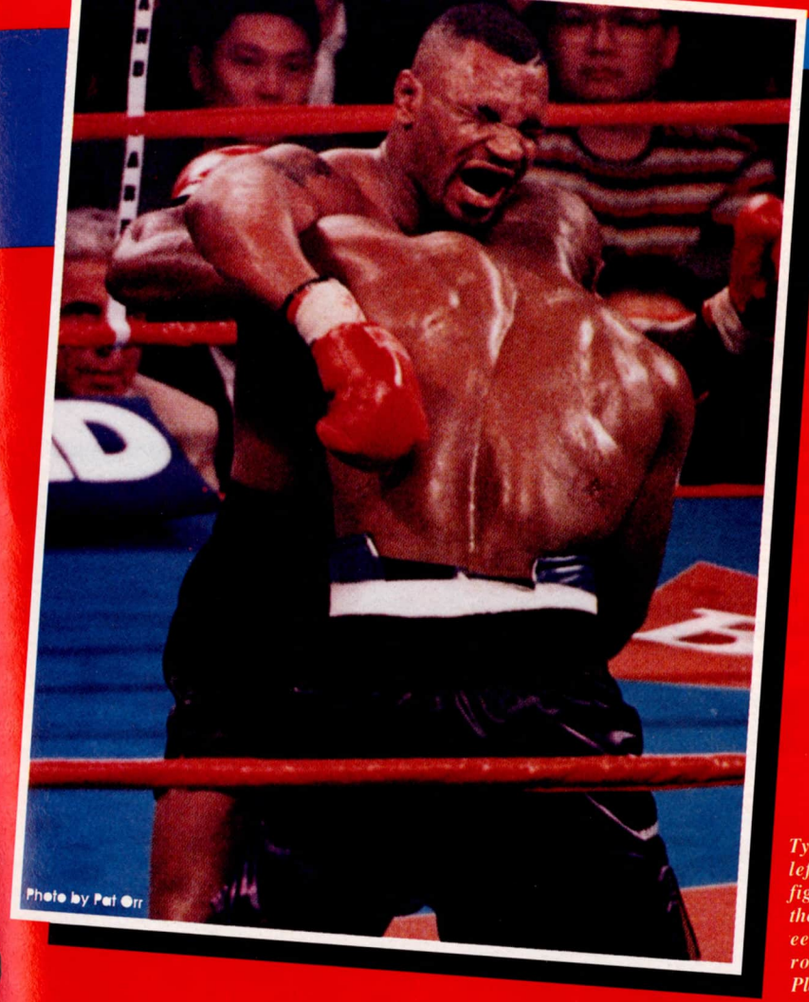


Photo by Pat Orr

Tyson claims butts like this one (left) left him confused, disoriented, and fighting on instinct alone. Whatever the case, when he was rescued by referee Mitch Halpern early in the 11th round, The Baddest Man On The Planet seemed rather ordinary (below).

Photo by Pat Orr

By Nigel Collins

Mike Tyson is such a compelling figure, even the crushing defeat at the born-again fists of Evander Holyfield has failed to loosen his grip on the public's imagination. We're still captivated by the man behind the shattered myth, and wonder if he can come back again, not to some meaningless title, but to the greatness he's flirted with throughout his volatile career. The stakes are about as high as they can get, and how Tyson responds to this latest crisis will go a long way toward determining his ultimate place in boxing history.

If the key to mastering the future is understanding the past, Tyson's first task should be to try to figure out why Holyfield

kicked his butt in the first place. But that's just for starters, because once he realizes what the problem is, the next step is to do something about it. And in order to do that, some profound changes are required, changes that present the greatest challenge of Tyson's professional life.

People react to unexpected occurrences in strange ways. Some say such events are a test of character. One Tyson fan in Colorado Springs became so distraught when Holyfield knocked out his hero, he shot and killed his father. Tyson's reaction has ranged from humble acceptance immediately after the fight ("He fought a good fight; my hat's off to him") to incredulity the following week ("This is a really bizarre dilemma").

Other than insisting he wants a rematch as soon as possible, Tyson's rote-like reply to almost all inquiries pertaining to what took place inside the ring at the MGM

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Head trainer Jay Bright was widely criticized after Tyson's loss to Holyfield. In defense, Bright said he offered his fighter clear, concise advice between rounds.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

Mike Tyson isn't the only one hoping to make a comeback. Nevada bookmakers are looking to bounce back from the hosing they took when Evander Holyfield upset the odds and became only the second man in history to win the heavyweight title three times.

Holyfield opened as a massive 18-1 underdog two months before the fight, but had dropped to 6-1 by fight time. However, unlike horse racing, folks who wager on boxing at Nevada's sports books (legally, of course) get the odds posted at the time they place their bets, which resulted in a windfall for those who got their money down early on "The Real Deal."

"It was probably the worst disaster in Vegas sports book history," said veteran oddsmaker Herb Lambeck, commenting on what is believed to be a loss of several millions dollars.

"All the bets were on Holyfield. Not many people have $25,000 to lay to win $1,000, so they bet the underdog," said the Reno Hilton's Teri Gray.

Oddly enough, considering the heavy losses incurred in Holyfield-Tyson I, Art Manteris, Director of Race and Sports Operations at the Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook, and boxing oddsmaker for THE RING, has already installed Tyson as a 2-1 favorite in the proposed rematch. The odds don't necessarily reflect who Manteris or any oddsmaker thinks will win the fight. The tricky art of oddsmaking is not about picking winners; it's about generating business for the gaming industry.

"The number-one factor in determining the odds we post is how we believe the betting public will react to the price. We don't want one-sided betting," explained Manteris. "The public didn't bet as anticipated in the first fight, but I think Tyson is still a betting favorite. There's going to be a great deal of speculation that he took Holyfield lightly the first time and wasn't prepared. Other people contend that it was a fluke, and there's no way Holyfield can do it again."

You wanna bet?

–NC

Oddsmaker Art Manteris

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

What many Tyson-bashers are choosing to overlook is the fact that "Iron Mike" hit Holyfield with plenty of powerpunches (above). "The Real Deal" simply refused to cooperate, firing back every time he was in any sort of danger (right).

Grand on November 9 has been, "I don't remember." According to the party line, after bumping heads with Holyfield in the third round, the defending WBA heavyweight champion experienced an almost total breakdown of his mental and physical faculties. This allegedly included complete memory loss, making it impossible for him to comment on anything that happened thereafter.

"Whatever damage the headbutt did internally, it remained with Mike throughout the whole fight," claimed Tyson's trainer, Jay Bright. "He had no legs after the headbutt. He was unable to execute the tactics we focused on in training camp that required a certain amount of legs under you. Mike was fighting on instincts."

Only Tyson knows for sure whether his assertion of amnesia is authentic or just a convenient method of deflecting tough questions. The disturbing thing is that he seems to be suggesting that because he can't remember what happened, it doesn't count. Sorry, Mike, it counts big-time.

Oddly enough, a measure of support came from Holyfield, who recalled being hit so hard in an amateur bout that he, too, didn't remember a thing afterward. Which brings us to another intriguing possibility: If Tyson's internal wiring was indeed short-circuited, who's to say it wasn't a punch that did the damage? After all, Holyfield had already connected with several numbing shots prior to their initial clash of heads.

Perhaps the reason Holyfield was so receptive to the notion was because he knows what it feels like to be on the other end of an excuse. Hardly anybody believed him when he said he'd been weakened by a virus prior to his kayo loss to Riddick Bowe in November 1995. People just figured he was shot. Though Holyfield didn't make anywhere near as big a deal of his malady as Tyson did the headbutt, what was brushed aside as just another alibi at the time makes all the sense in the world in light of Holyfield's eye-opening performance against Tyson. But we digress.

Regardless of how pivotal the third-round clash of heads actually was, there was a definite now-I've-got-my-story-straight feel to Tyson's remarks during Showtime's rebroadcast a week later. The gracious loser who said "I'm not going to make any excuses" had been replaced by a guy who sounded like he was trying to obliquely trivialize his conqueror's accomplishment.

Both Tyson and his camp have to broaden their tunnel-like perspective. Face it, fellas, Holyfield was acquitting himself

extremely well before heads collided, and an ostrich-like approach isn't going to help. Instead of excuses, a cleansing dose of reality is in order.

The sort of changes Tyson needs to salvage his career will not be easily made. First and foremost, he must take an honest look at himself and those around him. The status quo isn't working, so a major shake-up is essential. Anything less would be a waste of time.

There's been no shortage of know-it-alls giving him advice, but Tyson doesn't need anyone telling him what to do. He's been around boxing most of his life, and, deep down, knows better than anyone what needs fixing. Whether or not he has the courage to face up to the truth is something else altogether. And therein lies the crux of the issue: Tyson's character.

Tyson's detractors have long maintained that he's a bully, the sort of fighter who crumbles when an opponent stands up to his initial rush and fights back. But this is not a fair assessment. A bully is essentially a coward, and will quit when the going becomes challenging. Tyson never quit, and right up until Holyfield's blistering salvo had him out on his feet at the end of the 10th round, he was throwing punches with bad intentions. The fact that his efforts were unsuccessful is immaterial; the important thing is that he never stopped trying.

After 10-plus rounds with Holyfield, Tyson was battered. Physically, he'll recover. But what about his psyche? Said co-manager John Horne, "This is nothing he's not mentally prepared to handle."

It was similar when Tyson was knocked out by Buster Douglas. Sure, he looked ludicrous crawling on the canvas in Tokyo, trying to put his mouthpiece in backward. But underneath that pitiful gesture was the intent to get up and fight on. Quitters don't need mouthpieces. No, Tyson's problems do not stem from a lack of courage between the ropes. What's preventing him from being the best that he can be is rooted in the same chaotic past that has molded his entire life.

From a boxing perspective, there has been nobody strong enough to demand his total trust and respect since Cus D'Amato died in 1985. D'Amato disciples Kevin Rooney and Jay Bright have enjoyed a measure of success, but over the long haul, neither trainer has been anywhere near as influential as their mentor. The brusque, Svengali-like D'Amato was one-of-a-kind and a helluva tough act to follow. Parroting his teachings is not enough to help Tyson grow as a fighter. And grow he must if he's to have a fighting chance of recapturing his former glory.

(Continued on page 71)

THE BIG PICTURE

While it's unfair to judge a fighter's ultimate place in boxing history until his career is over, it's still fun to speculate. Prior to his devastating kayo defeat at the hands of Evander Holyfield, Mike Tyson seemed destined for a spot among the top-10 heavyweight champions of all-time. Now, his status is ambiguous, temporarily on hold until it's determined whether he can redeem his reputation in future fights. But based on his career to date, Tyson would not make the cut on my admittedly subjective list. Who does? See below:

1. Muhammad Ali
2. Joe Louis
3. Evander Holyfield
4. Larry Holmes
5. George Foreman
6. Jack Johnson
7. Rocky Marciano
8. Joe Frazier
9. Jack Dempsey
10. Sonny Liston

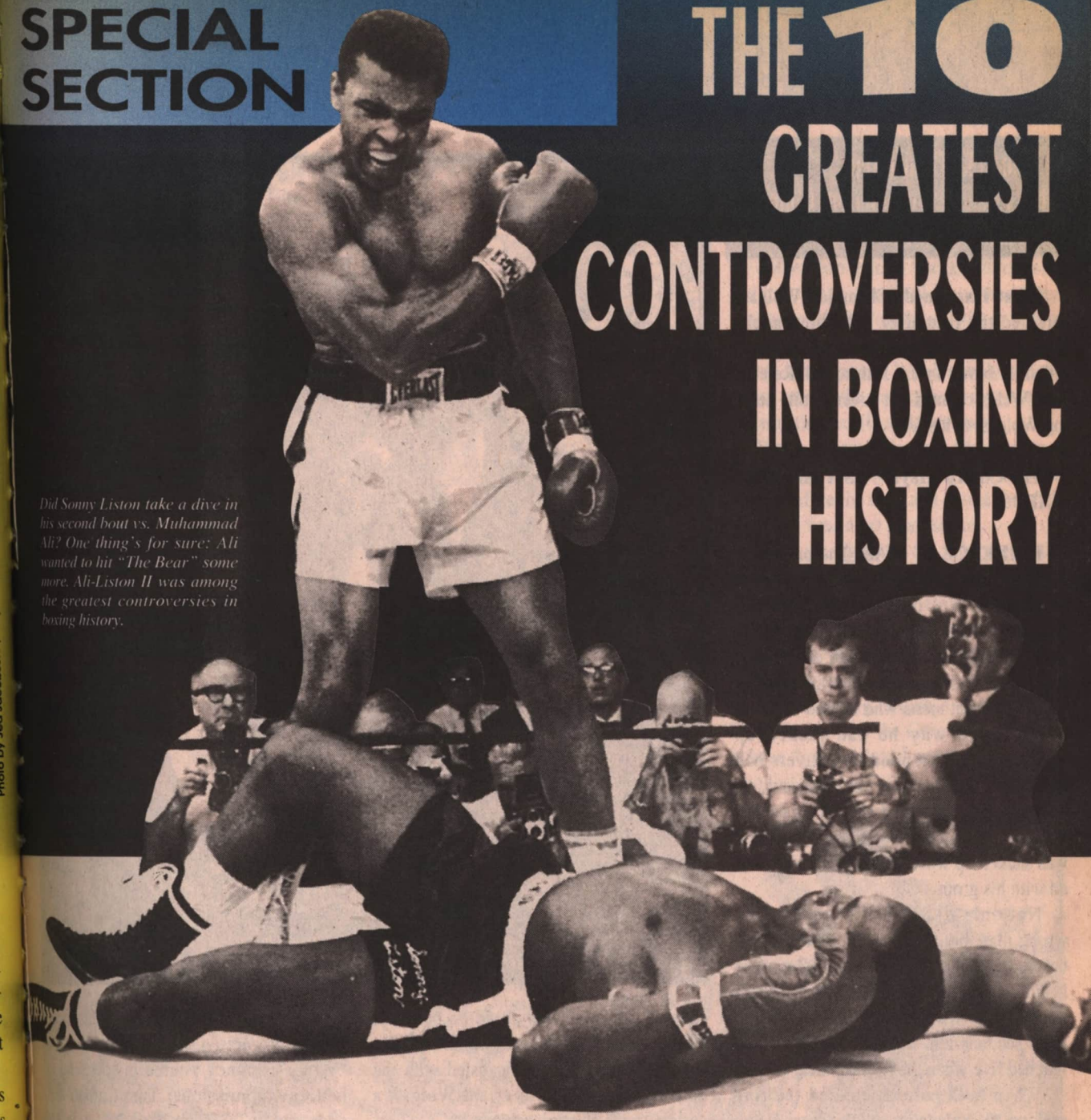
–NC

Photo by Joy Lash

Evander Holyfield: Rated third

SPECIAL SECTION

THE 10 GREATEST CONTROVERSIES IN BOXING HISTORY



Did Sonny Liston take a dive in his second bout vs. Muhammad Ali? One thing's for sure: Ali wanted to hit "The Bear" some more. Ali-Liston II was among the greatest controversies in boxing history.

Compiled by Eric Bottjer

Controversy is to boxing what jalapeno peppers are to Mexican food. It's what gives the Sweet Science its spice, but also what makes it just a bit dangerous. Great fights are the fabric of the game. Great fights coated with controversy, however, are the ones we can never forget.

Fight fans are accustomed to controversy. In fact, they seem to relish it. In the days following Evander Holyfield's unlikely stoppage of Mike Tyson, the editors of THE RING were asked again and again, "Was the fight fixed?" It wasn't, of course, but Jake LaMotta threw his fight with Billy Fox, that we know for sure. And Joe Gans took a dive vs. Terry McGovern, or so we've been told. And *maybe* Sonny Liston fell down in his second fight with Muhammad Ali. *Maybe* Jack Johnson could've gotten up against Jess Willard, and *maybe* Jack Dempsey's hand wraps were soaked in Plaster of Paris before his challenge of Willard.

And all the maybes don't apply only to fights. A jury of his peers decided Mike Tyson raped Desiree Washington. Maybe he did, maybe he didn't.

In compiling this exclusive feature, Eric Bottjer painstakingly researched 10 of boxing's greatest controversies. We didn't ask him to draw any conclusions, only to compile the evidence, then present cases for both sides of the argument. Sorry, but you'll have to make up your own minds. After all, if there were easy answers, these wouldn't be controversies for the ages.

Ad Wolgast KO 13 Joe Rivers
July 4, 1912, The Arena, Vernon, California
World Lightweight Title

What Happened: Champion Wolgast retained the title after a double-knockdown; both men were simultaneously felled by blows in the 13th round. Referee Jack Welsh counted out Rivers while helping Wolgast to his feet.

The Controversy: WAS THE FIGHT FIXED?

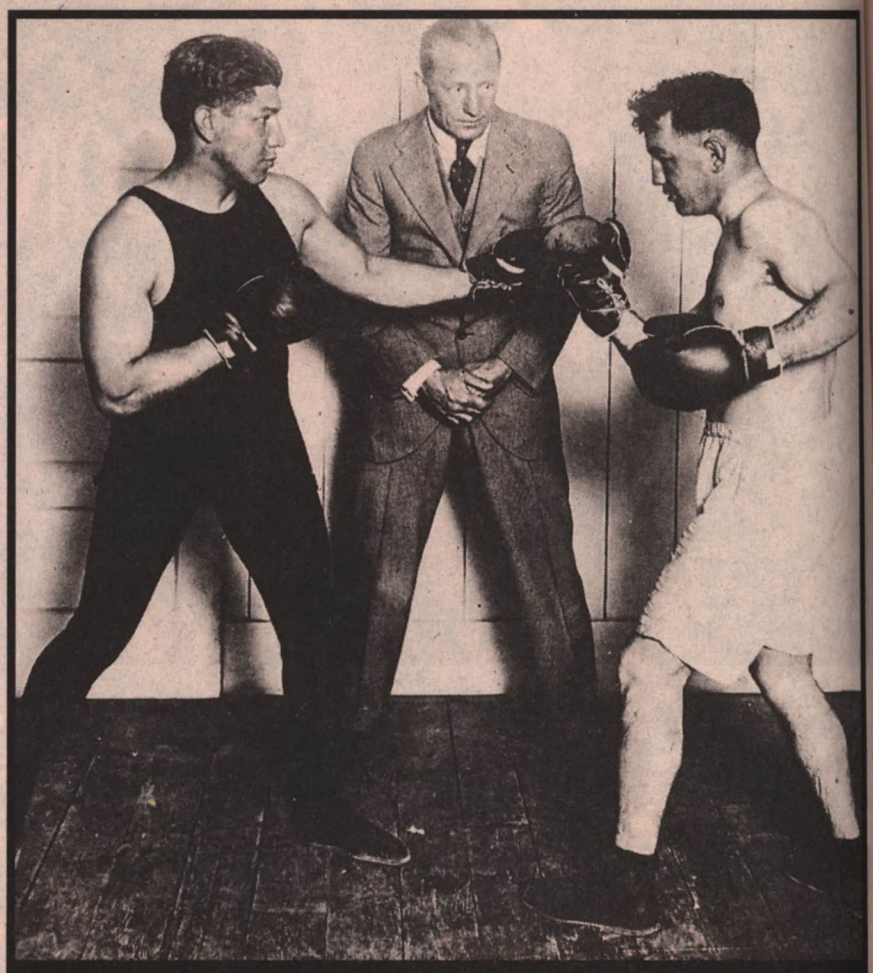
EVIDENCE IT WAS: The preposterous action of referee Welsh indicated a blatant fix. Not only did Rivers floor Wolgast with a clean blow to the jaw, but Wolgast dropped Rivers with an obvious low blow. Welsh seemed the only man in the 10,000-seat arena who missed the foul. When asked why he had picked up Wolgast, Welsh replied that Rivers had fallen first, and that only one man could be counted out. He added that Wolgast fell because he tripped over Rivers' legs and was shaken up when Rivers' knee connected with his groin.

Not only did Welsh count out the wrong man, but his count did not reach 10 before the bell ending the round. Reporters heard—and later confirmed with the timekeeper—that Rivers and Wolgast fell with eight seconds left, and that Welsh's count reached five when the round ended.

When both corners entered the ring seeking an explanation, Welsh leaned over the ropes and told reporters, "Wolgast wins by knockout." He then left the ring and arena before a puzzled crowd. Welsh never raised Wolgast's hand, fearing the reaction of the pro-Rivers gathering.

Welsh had aided Wolgast in the past. The previous July, the San Francisco referee counted out British challenger Owen Moran in the 13th round after Wolgast had landed an obviously low blow. Moran had won the previous three rounds and was outboxing Wolgast until the foul.

Likewise, before the bizarre ending, the classy Rivers was well ahead on points in the scheduled 20-round bout. Promoter Tom McCarey was so disgusted with the outcome, he refused to award Wolgast a custom-made championship belt.

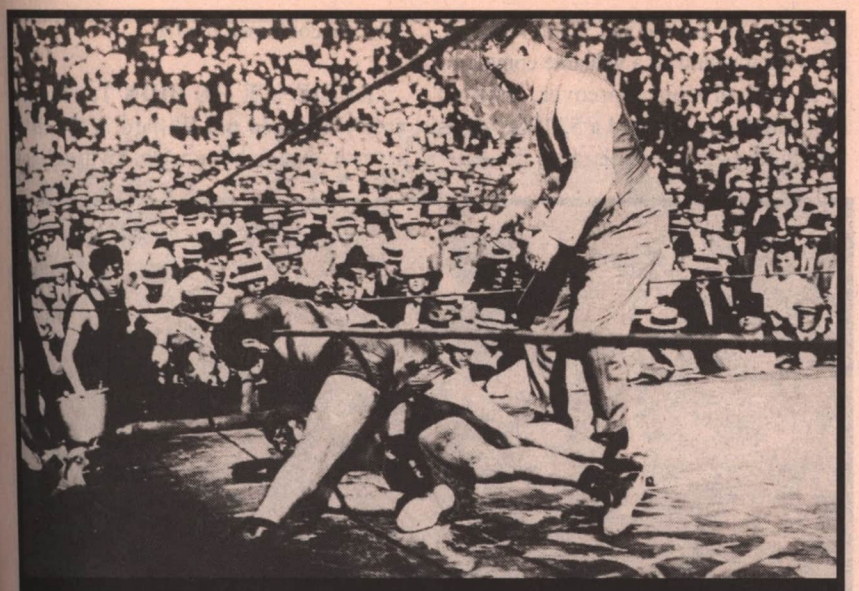


Rivers (left) and Wolgast square off before their bout, one of the most bizarre in boxing history.

McCarey's attorney, Earl Rogers, said he was told the morning of the fight that San Francisco gamblers had arranged a fix. About 400 Bay Area fans and gamblers headed by steamship and train for Vernon, a Los Angeles suburb, betting heavy money on Wolgast. This despite doubts about the champion's condition. He looked poor during training, was five pounds underweight, and had undergone an appendectomy the previous November. Moreover, in a non-title four-round go with Willie Ritchie, the champion had hit the deck. Yet despite these circumstances, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that "Wolgast money poured in so strong to betting commissioner Tom Corbett that odds shot to 2-1 [from 10-6]."

EVIDENCE IT WASN'T: Welsh was the most respected referee on the West Coast for the precise reason that he was untouchable to gamblers. If there was evidence he fixed the bout, Welsh would never have officiated professional boxing again. But the rotund referee continued to work major bouts on the West Coast and was picked by promoter Jack Curley and heavyweight champion Jack Johnson to referee the latter's bout with Jess Willard.

Welsh's bizarre decision stemmed from



Referee Welsh looks on as Wolgast and Rivers go down in a heap. The lightweights had been the victims of a ring rarity: a double-knockdown. What happened next was just as strange.

the fact that, terribly confused, he panicked. As *The Los Angeles Times* put it, "A celebrated referee lost his head like a little girl in a thunder shower."

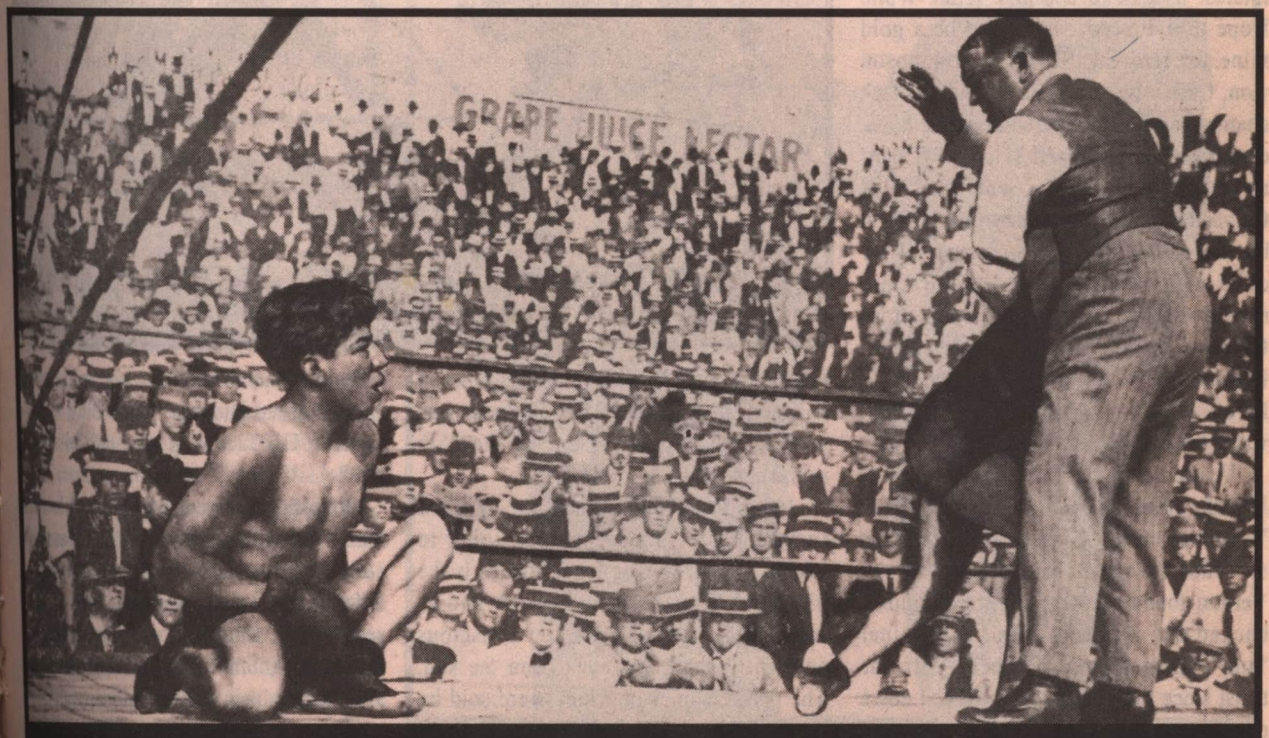
Welsh saw two fighters fall in a neutral corner, Rivers going down first, and Wolgast tumbling on top. From Welsh's position—behind Wolgast—the referee simply saw Wolgast's punch shoot toward Rivers' body, and the challenger then fell. Wolgast's body obscured the punch landed by Rivers.

Rather than quickly check with ringside judges to see if a foul blow had been struck, he lifted Wolgast off Rivers to give the challenger a legitimate chance to rise before the 10-count. Welsh simply had the worst seat in the house, and responded to the situation hastily and incorrectly.

Welsh admitted he and Wolgast were friends, but made it a point to visit with Rivers before the fight and assure the challenger he would get a fair shake.

After the fight, he did not "run to the nearest train and lock his compartment, trailed by angry fans," as later reported, but gave formal statements to the Los Angeles and San Francisco newsmen as to what he had seen.

After hearing Welsh's explanation, Harry B. Smith of the *Chronicle* called the referee "an absolute honest arbitrator ... who lost his head." ■



As Rivers claims a low blow, Welsh, one of the most respected referees of his day, helps champion Wolgast to his feet. Was the referee blatantly favoring Wolgast, who he had admitted was a friend? Or did he simply panic under the most unusual circumstances?

Jess Willard KO 26 Jack Johnson April 15, 1915, Oriental Racetrack, Havana, Cuba

The Controversy: DID JOHNSON THROW THE FIGHT?

EVIDENCE HE DID: Johnson's heavyweight title had become a financial and personal hardship. Having been hounded out of the U.S. on trumped-up charges of transporting a woman across state lines for immoral purposes, he could not re-enter the U.S. without facing prison, and was having difficulty finding promoters abroad. His prior defense, vs. Frank Moran in France, was a fiasco, with neither getting paid.

There is written evidence that Johnson offered to throw the fight against Moran, and many believe he originally planned to lay down against Jim Jeffries in 1910, but changed his mind the week of the fight.

Promoter Jack Curley had a personal interest in Willard winning. If the White Hope beat Johnson, he would be a gold mine for future U.S. fights. If Johnson won, Curley was stuck with a hated black champion who was barred from his home country. Curley himself selected Willard as the opponent and enticed "The Galveston Giant" into throwing the fight by suggesting the government would lay off if Johnson were title-less. Curley also told Johnson his mother was ill in Chicago and wished to see her son. In February, *Chicago Herald* writer Billy Birch, who knew Johnson and Curley, wrote the coming fight was "a frame-up."

Upon arriving in Havana in mid-March, Johnson told stakeholder Bob Vernon to take any bets up to $10,000 at 6-5 odds favoring the champion. When Vernon found a taker, Johnson curiously backed off. Johnson friend and trainer Tom Flanagan, who had been with the titlist since the Jeffries fight, turned down offers at reasonable 8-5 odds. In past fights, he had bet heavily on Johnson.

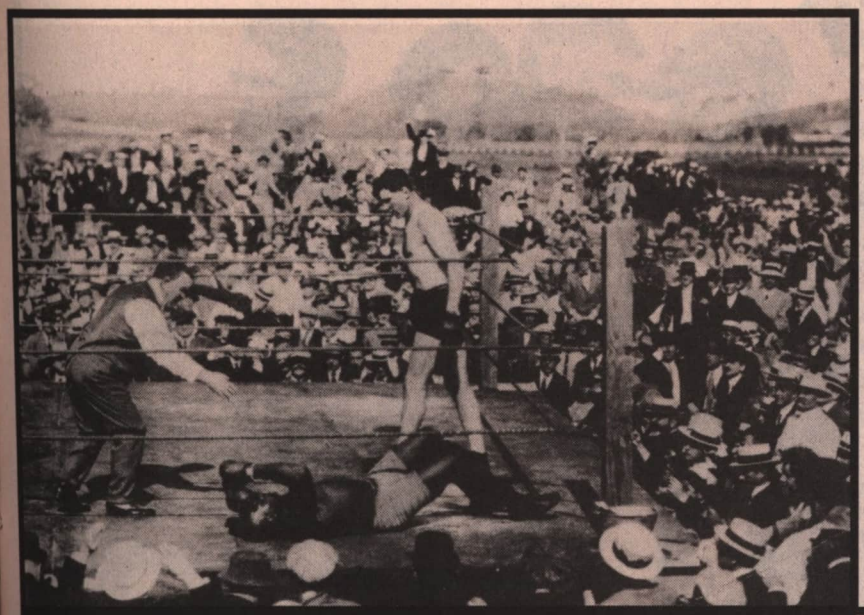
Johnson shrewdly gained rights to the fight film for Europe and South America, knowing it would be a valuable commodity if Willard won. Moreover, Johnson later said Curley offered a $20,000 bonus for quitting against Willard, to be delivered to Johnson's wife, Lucille Cameron Johnson, at ringside. Mrs. Johnson was seen leaving the arena during the 25th round. Johnson fell in the 26th.

A far superior boxer, Johnson nearly stopped Willard on several occasions. But the champion hadn't trained properly, and when the bout advanced into the later rounds, he decelerated.

Johnson barely trained for Willard (why train for a fight you're going to lose?). The most damning evidence is the photo of the knockout, which shows Johnson flat on his back but conscious enough to shade his eyes from the sun. The photo, copies of which were sold by the photographer the day after the fight for $5 apiece (10 cents for a postcard), created the controversy even before Johnson confessed the fix.

EVIDENCE HE DIDN'T: Johnson nearly knocked out Willard in the first, seventh, and eighth rounds. "Willard took a beating that would have put an ordinary fighter down and out," according to one report. "His face was gory and his body red."

Johnson's story of a payoff to his wife didn't jibe with reality. He says he instructed the money come from gate receipts in $500 bills. How many patrons, with tickets scaled from $3 to $20, were likely to have paid in $500 bills? Also, Johnson was seen after the fight in the box office, watching anxiously as the gate receipts were counted and stacked, evidence there was no payoff, and that Johnson had yet to be paid his



Down for the count in round 26, is Johnson legitimately hurt or shading his eyes from the scorching sun after having taken a dive? In later years, he insisted his loss had been prearranged.

$30,000 purse. Curley originally agreed to pay Johnson at the weigh-in, but slow pre-fight ticket sales prohibited that, and Johnson was visibly angry. To gain revenge, the normally cautious Johnson tried to knock out Willard early so the fight film would have little value in the U.S. for the promoter.

Referee Jack Welsh says he saw Johnson bet $2,500 on himself the day before the fight, and Johnson wired betting friends in Chicago, "Will win in 15th round."

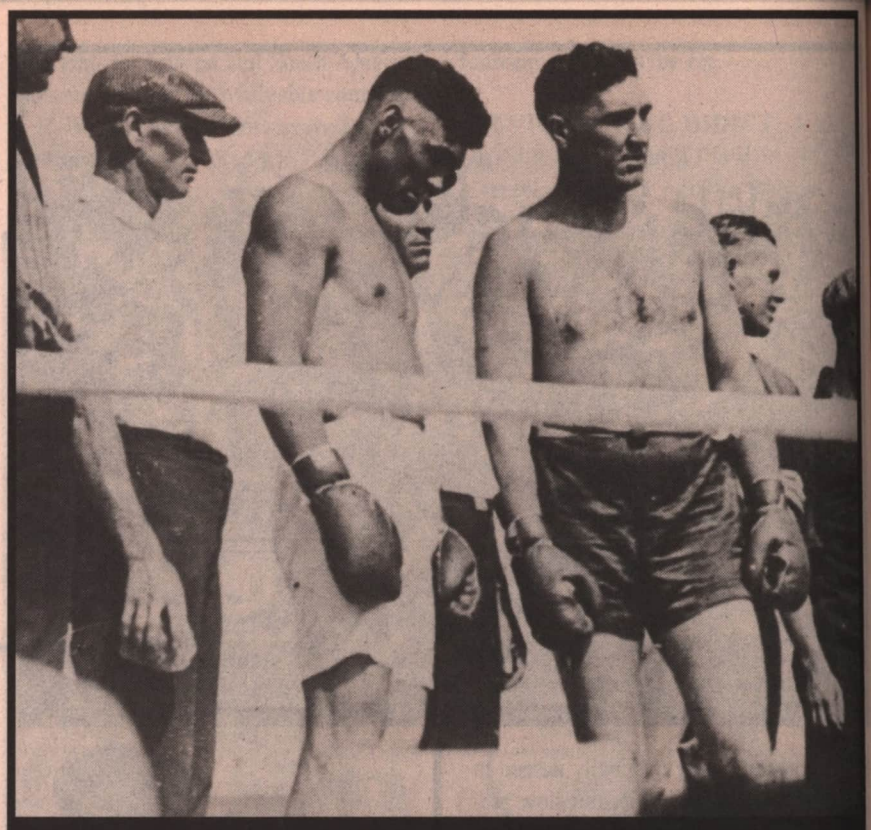
Johnson's story of having secured the opportunity to return to the U.S. unmolested if he lost the title was obviously false. He already knew there was no chance of that; early in 1915, Johnson made such an offer to Bruce Bielaski, chief of the U.S. Bureau of Investigation, and was turned down.

Johnson went to Spain after the Willard fight, where he stayed for a year, earning money as a bullfighter. He spent the next three years in Mexico, where he opened a cafe that quickly lost money. On July 20, 1920, the former champion crossed the Mexican-American border and was taken into custody. He served a one-year prison sentence. Upon his release, a broke Johnson sold a "confession" to THE RING Publisher and Editor Nat Fleischer for $250 that he threw the Willard bout. Fleischer, an admirer of Johnson, learned Johnson had been offered $200 for the fable by a London newspaper and upped the price for an exclusive. Fleischer felt the confession would embarrass the ex-champion and didn't publish it until a decade later.

Jack Johnson died at age 68 in a car wreck on his way to the second Louis-Conn fight. A day after that bout, a wire photo ran in many papers showing Conn on his back, his gloves shielding his eyes from the ring lights above. Nobody accused him of taking a dive. ■

Thirty years after their controversial clash, Johnson and Willard were reunited in Los Angeles. Most ring historians don't buy Johnson's version of their 1915 title fight.

Jack Dempsey KO 3 Jess Willard July 4, 1919, Bay View Park Arena, Toledo, Ohio



Dempsey and Willard just before their historic title fight in Toledo, Ohio. Dempsey was a big heavyweight for his day, but Willard nonetheless dwarfed him.

The Controversy: WERE DEMPSEY'S GLOVES LOADED?

EVIDENCE THEY WERE: Dempsey's manager, Jack "Doc" Kearns, bet $10,000 at 10-1 odds that Dempsey would score a first-round knockout. Willard had never been knocked down, much less kayoed, and Dempsey spotted him 57 pounds. The bet was ludicrous—unless Kearns had insurance. The manager later claimed he did, the insurance being Plaster of Paris hidden in a can of talcum powder in Dempsey's dressing room. Kearns said he sprinkled Dempsey's wraps with the illegal substance and then sponged the wraps so they hardened.

Kearns was not above cheating; in his own short-lived ring career, he won his first fight after bribing the referee. And Dempsey was no choirboy either. A former pool hustler and bar fighter, he had been blackballed by many promoters after allegedly accepting $300 to take a dive against Fireman Jim Flynn. A year later, a 10-second win over Carl Morris was called an out-and-out tank job by newspapers.

Dempsey's memory of the $10,000 bet was inconsistent. In a 1977 biography, he says he knew nothing of the wager until leaving the dressing room, and that he thought the bet was foolish. But in the '40s and '50s—before Kearns admitted to having loaded the gloves—Dempsey says he helped the manager raise the $10,000.

The injuries sustained by Willard point to loaded gloves. The champion's jaw was broken, he was cut above and below both eyes, and he lost six teeth. The right side of his face "looked like a peach that had been repeatedly dropped on concrete," according to a ringside report. Willard suffered all of these injuries, as well as seven knockdowns, in the first round alone.

Willard always maintained he knew Dempsey's gloves had been loaded from the first blow that was struck. He went public with his accusation three years after the fight, remaining silent in the interim because "I didn't want to be a sore loser."

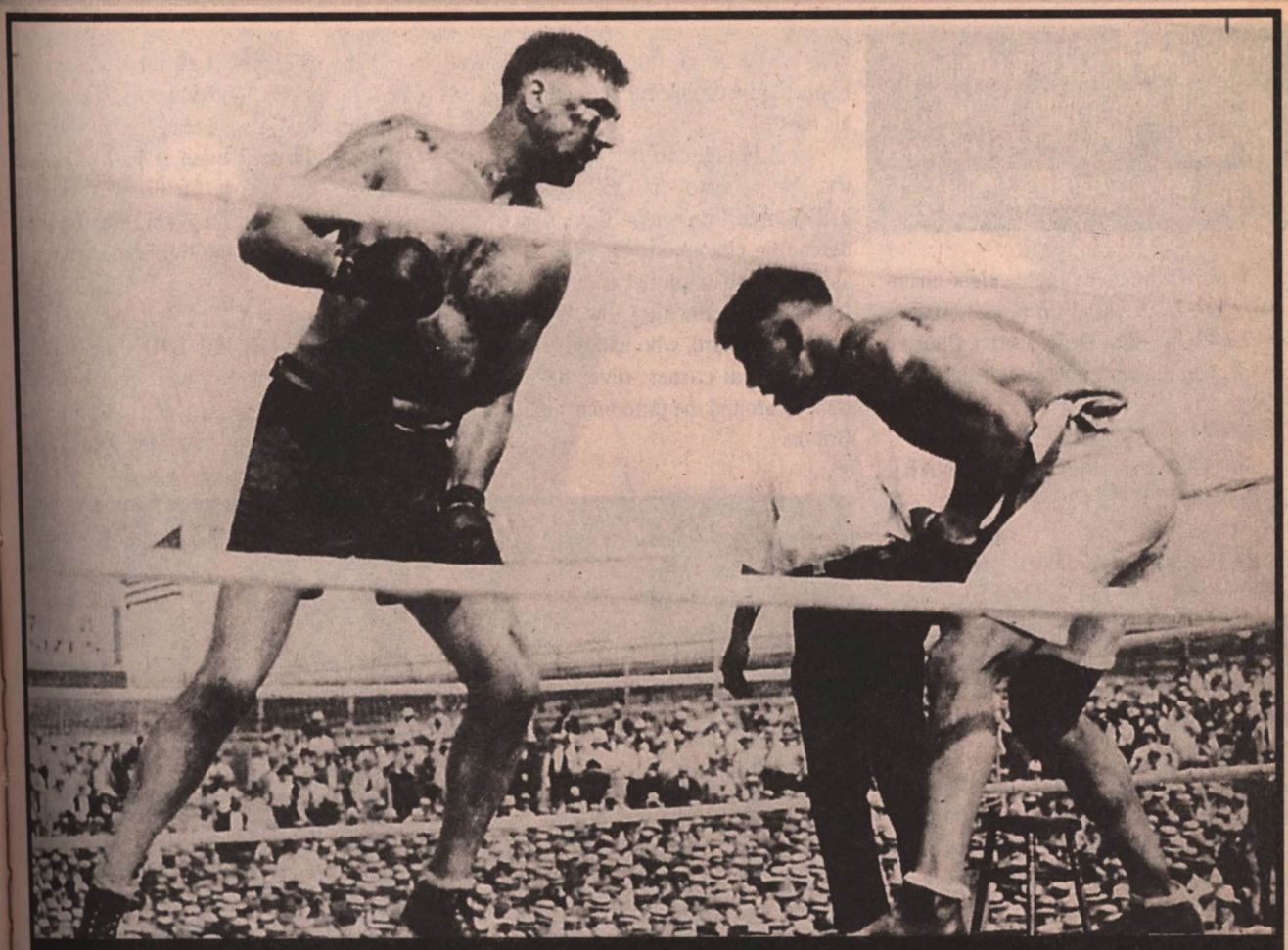
Kearns' son, Jerry McKernan, says his father admitted the foul play to family members and close friends, and veteran boxing scribe Lester Bromberg wrote that Kearns admitted to him he had loaded Dempsey's gloves.

EVIDENCE THEY WEREN'T: Kearns didn't tape Dempsey's hands; the challenger did the job himself. Trainer Jimmy DeForest gave Dempsey hard adhesive tape, which was legal in 1919, and admittedly soaked the heavyweight's hands in a bucket of water to harden the tape. DeForest had done the same for Kid McCoy when the middleweight champion had a well-earned reputation as a slashing puncher.

While Dempsey was taping his own hands, Kearns was in Willard's dressing room watching the champion doing the same. Walter Monaghan, Willard's chief second, confirmed Dempsey's story, as he was in "The Manassa Mauler's" dressing room watching the tape job. He said his eyes never left Dempsey until the challenger donned gloves in the ring. Another Willard follower, Ike O'Neil, accompanied Monaghan and backed his story.

Jack Robinson, who sold concessions at the fight, snatched Dempsey's discarded wraps from the dressing room. When the controversy arose, he retrieved the wraps from storage and stated there was no Plaster of Paris on them.

Former bantamweight champion Pete Herman ended up in possession of Dempsey's gloves and echoed



Willard's face tells the entire story of the fight. He had his jaw broken, was cut above and below both eyes, and lost six teeth. Never before had a boxer absorbed such punishment in so few rounds. It was a miracle that Big Jess made it out of the first round.

Robinson's claims. There was no evidence inside the gloves, be it Plaster of Paris residue or damage, that suggested foul play.

A group of writers tried duplicating Kearns' alleged tampering and found the Plaster of Paris wrap crumbled when it struck another object. In all likelihood, Kearns invented his tale to take credit for Dempsey's win. The legendary manager went public with the story in 1958, just after Dempsey told Kearns he was not invited to play a role in a Dempsey bio film.

Kearns' tale ran in *Sports Illustrated* in 1964, just after his death, and Dempsey garnered an out-of-court settlement and a printed apology when the magazine produced no evidence supporting Kearns' claim. ■

In a Milwaukee Journal *recreation of Doc Kearns' alleged foul play, Plaster of Paris is sprinkled on a fighter's hand wraps. The newspaper's conclusion: If Kearns had loaded up Dempsey's gloves, the heavyweight would certainly have known about it.*

Jack Britton W Disq. 13 Benny Leonard June 26, 1922, The Velodrome, Bronx, New York (Retains World Welterweight Title)

What Happened: Lightweight champion Leonard, behind on points, strikes welterweight titlist Britton after flooring his foe, earning an immediate disqualification.

The Controversy: DID LEONARD THROW THE FIGHT?

EVIDENCE HE DID: Leonard hit Britton nearly two full seconds after flooring the champion with a bodypunch. The foul blow was intentional and without provocation. Leonard actually had to step around referee Patsy Haley to strike the fateful punch.

Leonard was no hot-head prone to such action. He had a reputation as the smartest fighter of his day and often played mind games with opponents to work his way out of tough spots.

Leonard had previously split a pair of bouts with Britton (no-decision contests that had been scored by local newspapers), and admitted he both liked Britton and admired his skills. The first two matches had taken place in 1917 and 1918, when Leonard was still developing and Britton was in his prime. In the rubber match, the 26-year-old Leonard should have handled his 37-year-old rival. Yet Britton took a points lead, not because he dominated the action, but because Leonard refused to try and win the fight. The *New York Tribune's* Jack Masters reported the fight as a "clown act that had been cleverly rehearsed," and accused both Leonard and Britton of being in on a fix.

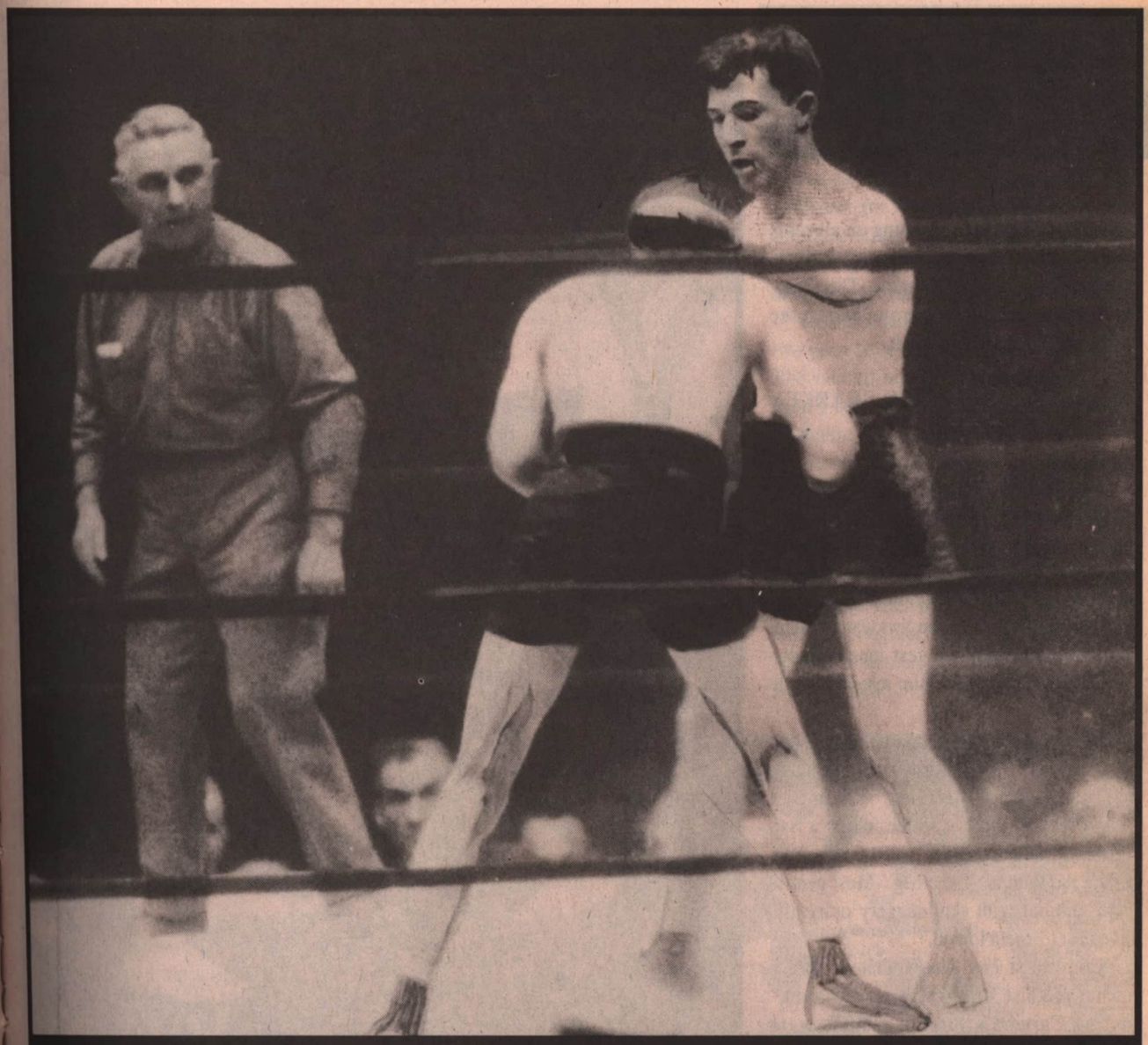
The *New York Herald's* W.O. McGeehan wrote the fight reminded him of the Joe Gans-Jimmy Britt fix (Gans had lost on an intentional foul), but that "Gans-Britt was much better-staged. The managers [of Leonard and Britton] expect too much to ask of fans to believe that Leonard, the coolest fighter in the ring, lost his head."

What brought Britton under suspicion was that Leonard's left to the beltline that had floored him was a light punch. The defending champion immediately looked at Haley and implored him to disqualify Leonard for punching low. When Haley refused, Leonard, who had initially headed for a neutral corner, reversed his field, stepped around the third man, and punched Britton.

Why the fix? Leonard was a 3-1 favorite and Britton bettors had a chance at good money. Also, Leonard was a natural lightweight and, even if he had beaten Britton, had no use for the welterweight crown. A loss meant nothing, as Leonard would still retain the lightweight championship.

EVIDENCE HE DIDN'T: Neither Leonard nor Britton were previously or subsequently accused of fixing a fight. The Walker Law had just passed two

Lightweight champion Leonard seems loose as he squares off with welterweight champion Britton before their welterweight title fight. Referee Patsy Haley looks on.



Britton and Leonard in action. At 37, Britton no longer possessed the skills of his prime. Leonard, on the other hand, was improving with every fight.

years prior in New York, and boxing was beginning to thrive. Leonard and Britton would have been fools to risk a lifetime suspension for fixing a title fight in front of 26,000 fans.

The commission was satisfied with Leonard's explanation that he had lost his head. Leonard apparently became angry that Britton, a probable knockout loser after taking the bodyshot, was trying to steal the fight on a foul call, and the lightweight champion struck in anger.

Leonard stunned the champion on more than one occasion and had him staggering in several rounds, hardly the fight plan of a man prepared to throw a match.

"In the sixth, seventh, and eighth rounds, Leonard carried the fight to his opponent at a rapid rate. In the 11th, Leonard opened up and seemed bent on scoring a knockout," wrote ringside observer and THE RING Publisher and Editor Nat Fleischer. "He almost succeeded in crushing Britton under the power of his blows in a furious two-handed assault which had the welterweight champion reeling and the crowd in a frenzy of excitement."

Leonard's brother Charlie, in the legendary champion's corner for every fight in Leonard's career, went ballistic after Haley's decision and earned an indefinite suspension from the commission for his tantrum. Had there been a fix and a betting coup, Leonard would no doubt have let his faithful brother in on the action. Instead, Charlie's actions indicated he desperately wanted his brother to win. ■

Primo Carnera KO 6 Jack Sharkey June 29, 1933, Long Island Bowl, New York City

What Happened: Trailing on all cards in a fast-paced fight, Carnera lands a single uppercut on a ducking Sharkey. The champion falls and doesn't move as referee Arthur Donovan counts to 10.

The Controversy: DID SHARKEY THROW THE FIGHT?

EVIDENCE HE DID: More than half of Carnera's 66 fights leading to the title go had been rigged by Carnera's mob managers. Name fighters like Young Stribling and George Godfrey succumbed to muscle and money to lose to the awkward Italian. The mobsters didn't invest tens of thousands of dollars to have him lose in his title shot.

West Coast writers reported the stench of a fix before the opening bell. "Sinister Whispers Attend Big Bout," screamed a *Los Angeles Times* headline, while a San Francisco writer stated, "Nine of 10 people figure the fight is 'in the bag.' Most gentlemen familiar with skullduggery opine it's fixed for Carnera to win."

Continued *The Times* writer, "It's a quaint promise the fight is on the level," noting Carnera's three managers were "public enemies."

The New York scribes, many on the mob's payroll, gave Carnera glowing reviews. One writer called the unschooled boxer "a scholar, an orator, a man of action."

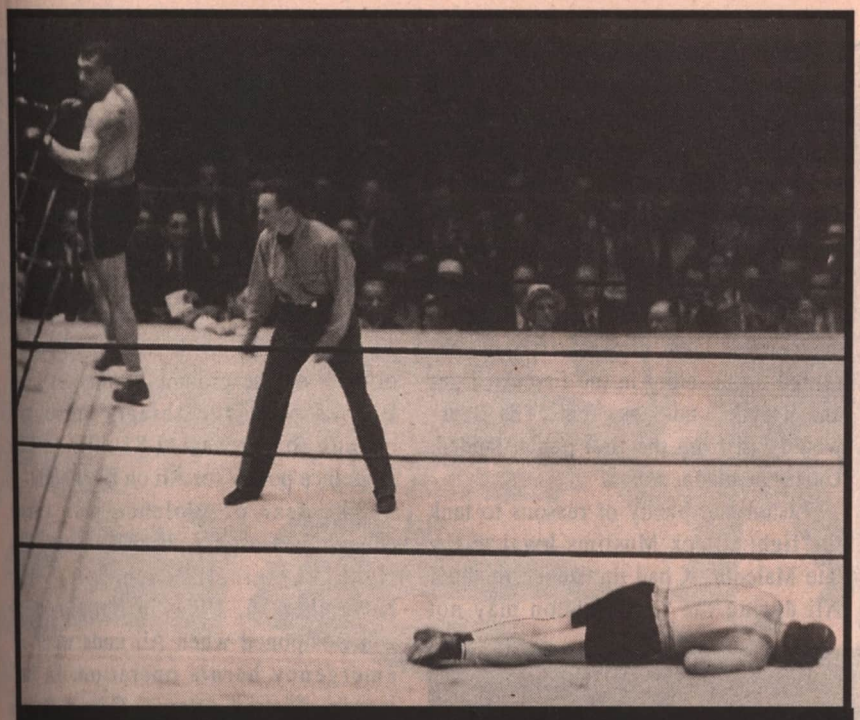
What action observers saw in Carnera during training camp didn't inspire confidence. "Carnera's workouts are mostly ordinary," reported Edward Neil. "He cannot punch hard, and sudden shifts in attack baffle him."

Sharkey had whipped Carnera convincingly two years prior, and the Italian had not even scored a knockdown in bouts against Larry Gains, Paulino Uzcudun, Jimmy Maloney, and Battling Levinsky. Yet the odds favored Carnera by 6-5, the first time in history a heavyweight title challenger entered the ring a favorite. Moreover, a flood of Carnera money came in after Sharkey raced from his Orangeburg, New York, training camp to his Newton, Massachusetts, home after someone threatened to kidnap his three children. In fact, three threats were issued before the champion made the 400-mile round trip, missing two days of training.

Was this a matchup between a middleweight and a heavyweight? That's what it looked like at the weigh-in, with the monstrous Carnera challenging world heavyweight champion Sharkey.

Carnera's mob managers were frequently seen at Sharkey's camp. Pete Reilly, a noted New York mob figure banned at the local race tracks, even felt comfortable enough to play baseball with youngsters at Sharkey's camp as the champion trained.

The knockout blow was dubious to many ringsiders, as Sharkey theatrically launched his upper body upward before falling on his face. Wrote Westbrook Pegler, "[The punch] didn't seem sufficient



Down and most definitely out, Sharkey was paralyzed after being caught by Carnera's sixth-round uppercut. The knockout seemed unlikely, but Sharkey always maintained it was legitimate.

friend, Ernie Schaaf, had died of a brain injury after fighting Carnera, and Sharkey had to be pulled off the Italian in Schaaf's dressing room when Carnera inquired about his victim's condition. Sharkey vowed revenge and for one year had waited anxiously for his chance. Until his death, Sharkey claimed he had frozen against Carnera shortly before the knockout blow after seeing a vision of Schaaf in the ring.

Carnera had improved tenfold in the two years separating his fights vs. Sharkey. The champion, perhaps overconfident, hadn't trained properly and grew winded during the fast-paced match.

Newly appointed New York boxing commissioner Bill Brown, who secured the job after vowing to eliminate fixed fights, saw nothing suspicious about the knockout and ordered no investigation.

Carnera later proved he had become a legitimate fighter by scoring on-the-level wins in defenses against Tommy Loughran and Uzcudun. ■

to cause the damage it was purported to cause."

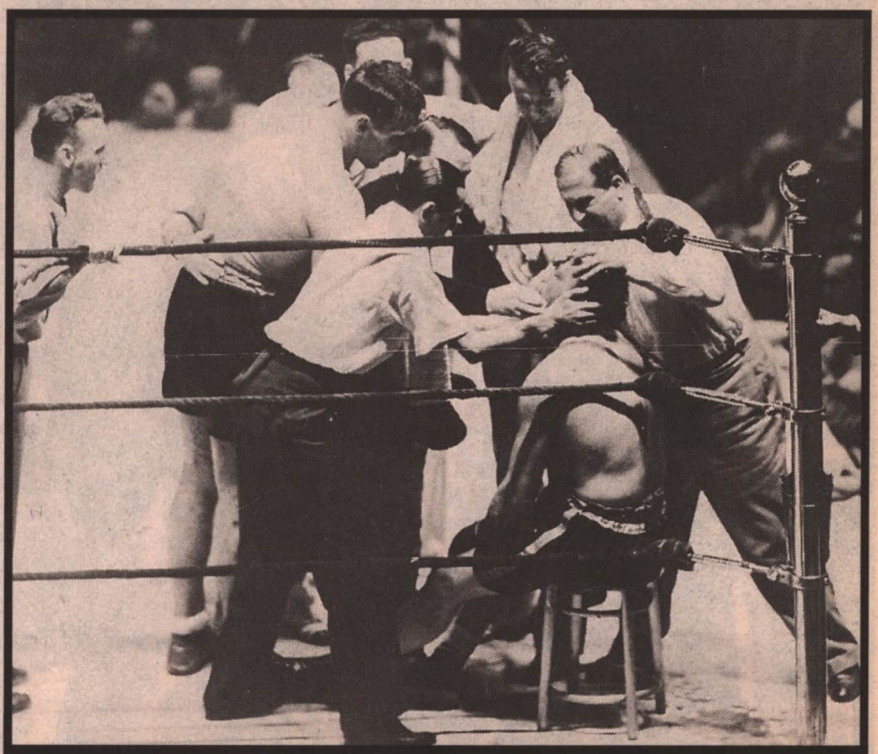
In his locker room, Sharkey said of Carnera, "Now he can have the headache."

EVIDENCE IT WAS ON THE LEVEL: Other than Sharkey, of course, referee Arthur Donovan had the best view of the blow. Stated the third man, "There was terrific force behind the finishing blow, and Sharkey was as clearly knocked out as any fighter I have ever seen."

The New York Times' James Dawson stated, "The punch almost decapitated Sharkey," while Grantland Rice wrote the uppercut "had enough force to sink a battleship." Rice added that Sharkey had fought savagely until losing, and he had not seen a better six rounds of heavyweight action.

Money could not have induced Sharkey to throw the fight. As heavyweight champion, he stood to make more in future defenses than the mob could have paid him for throwing one fight.

Pride and revenge had also motivated the temperamental champion. Sharkey's



Moments after the shocking knockout, Carnera checks on the former champion's condition. Most fans couldn't believe the huge Italian, initially dismissed as inept, had won the most treasured title in sports. To this day, some believe the result was shady.

Muhammad Ali KO 1 Sonny Liston
May 25, 1965, Lewiston, Maine

What Happened: Making his first defense since beating Liston for the belt in February 1964, Ali downs the former champion with a seemingly harmless right hand and retains the title in front of 2,434 disbelieving, angry fans.

The Controversy: DID LISTON THROW THE FIGHT?

EVIDENCE HE DID: "I saw the punch. It wouldn't have crushed a grape," said ringside columnist Jimmy Cannon, describing the short right hand that had Liston floundering on the canvas for 18 seconds.

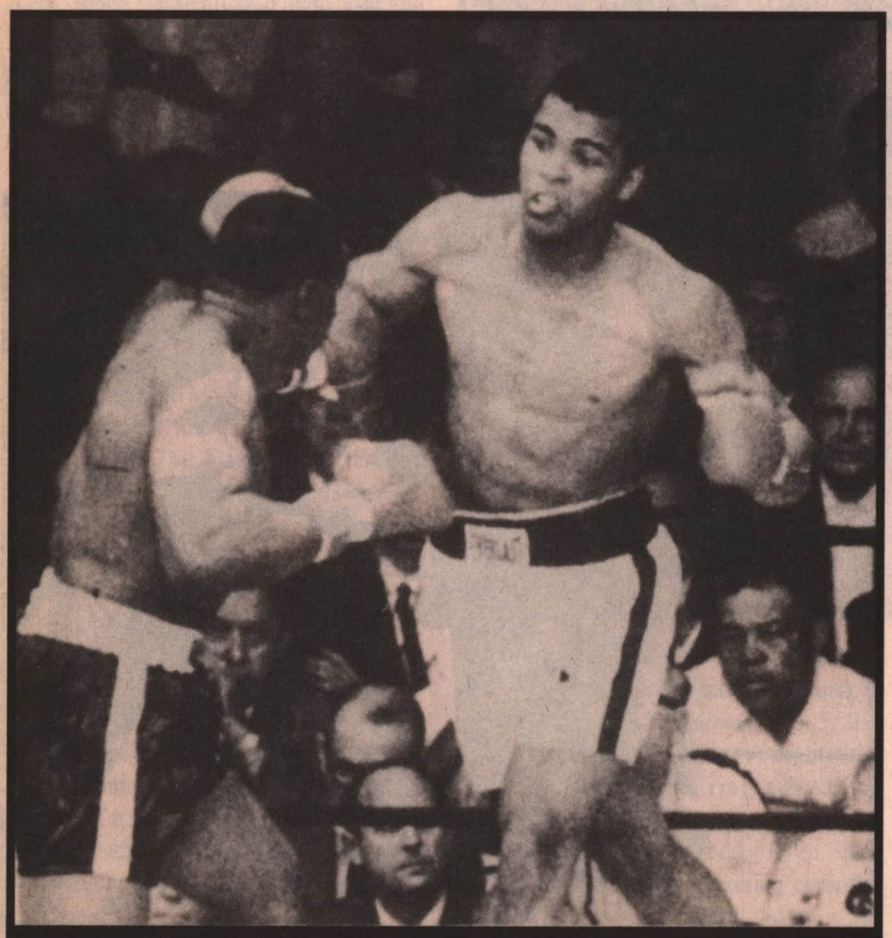
It's unbelievable that Liston, having fought on after suffering a broken jaw vs. Marty Marshall, having sampled Cleveland Williams' bombs, having *never before been down*, would crumble against the light-hitting Ali. Couple Liston's granite chin with a genuine desire to redeem himself after having retired on his stool in the first Ali fight and it makes no sense that "The Bear" would fall from the first punch landed. Unless he planned to.

Liston had plenty of reasons to tank the fight. Black Muslims loyal to the late Malcolm X had threatened to shoot Ali during the fight. Liston may not have feared Ali, but the former felon understood the power of gunfire—and understood that assassins cared little if they shot him as long as they got Ali, too. Reinforcing those fears were the two cops who had been glued to Liston at his training camp in Poland Spring, Maine. Meanwhile, Ali's headquarters (in Chicopee, Massachusetts) resembled an armed camp, with at least 12 police officers on the grounds. Promoter Fred Brooks took the threats seriously enough to purchase a $1-million life insurance policy for Ali on fight night.

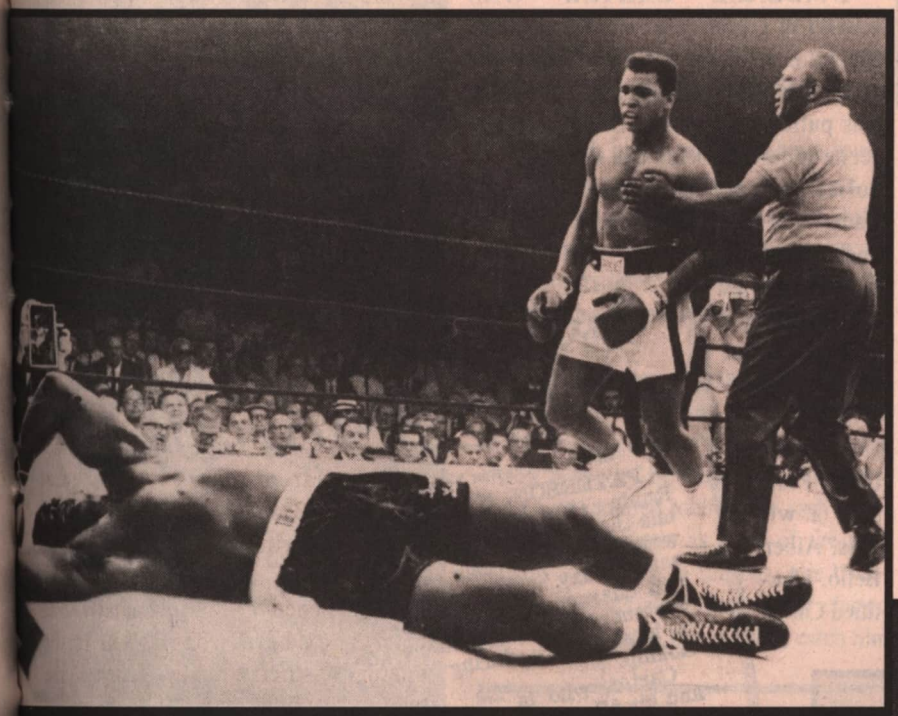
The fear of violence was great enough for Boston to have dismissed the fight. Originally scheduled for November 16, 1964, in Beantown, it was postponed when Ali underwent an emergency hernia operation. In the interim, District Attorney Garrett Byrne banned the fight after the death threats filtered in. Lewiston was not blind, upping its police force from 72 to 200 with help from sheriffs and state police.

Money could also have motivated Liston to tank it. He was an 8-5 favorite on fight night, and he knew he wouldn't see a penny of his $150,000 purse; a New York booking company had tied up the money after proving Liston had reneged on four boxing appearances in Great Britain. Moreover, Liston managers Pep Barone and Blinky Palermo were known fixers and gamblers. At 8-5 odds, they could make a killing.

EVIDENCE IT WAS A LEGITIMATE KNOCKOUT: If Liston was going to have taken a dive, he would have made it look good. His explanation for waffling on the canvas was plausible: He was listening for referee Jersey Joe Walcott's count (the count never came, as Walcott was having difficulty hustling Ali to a neutral corner), and stayed down when he saw the champion standing over him. Testifying years later at a congressional hearing, Liston said he had feared he was going to be hit as



It was called a phantom punch, but Ali did indeed connect with a first-round right cross to the face of Liston. The blow, which floored "The Bear," was termed "the anchor punch" by Ali.



As Liston writhes on the canvas, Ali seems as confused as everyone else. The heavyweight champion added to the confusion by initially refusing to follow referee Jersey Joe Walcott's command to retreat to a neutral corner. Walcott never did officially count to 10.

he arose, so he waited until Walcott moved Ali aside.

Had he feared gun threats, Liston would have pulled out of the fight rather than throw it. Beforehand, he claimed no trepidation. "They comin' after [Ali], ain't they?" he said to reporters.

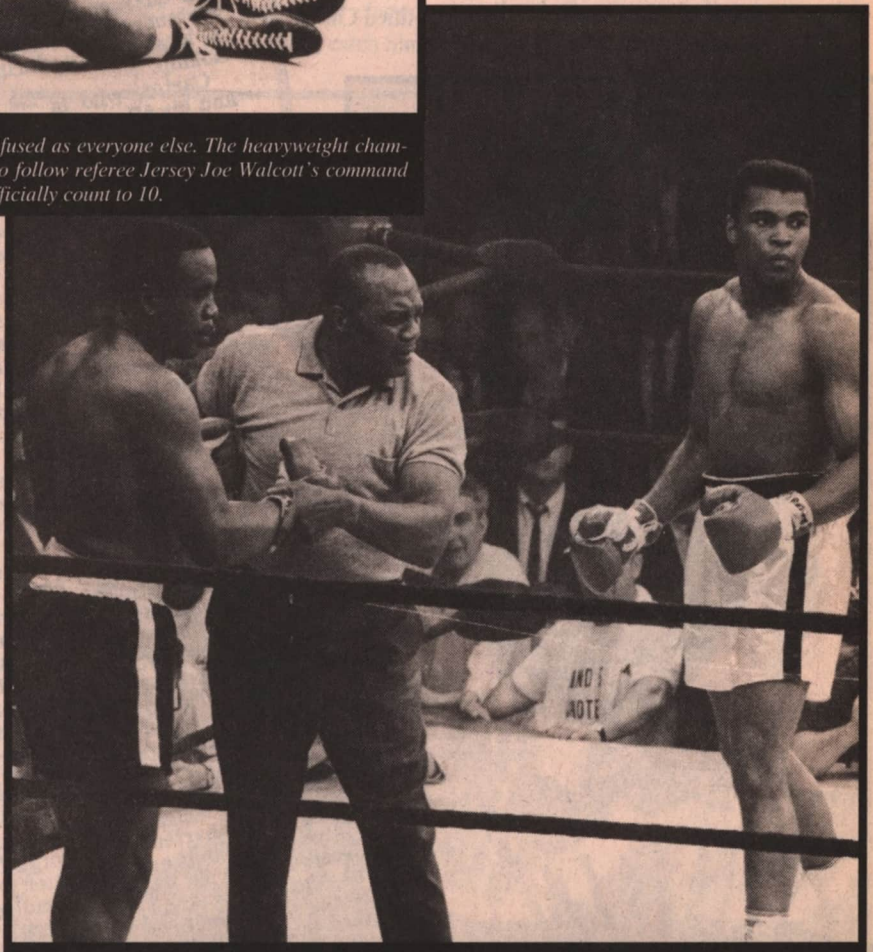
If Liston dove for money, he was double-crossed. "There was no money, because I would have saw it," said his wife, Geraldine, the only person Liston trusted.

The truth is that Liston was finished as a boxer. Listed at 33 years of age, he was probably close to 40. Having peaked before the postponement, he looked awful in training, and three days before the fight his handlers paid sparring partner Amos Lincoln $100 to allow him to look good.

Experienced boxing observers said the sharp, short right that ended the fight was not powerful, but it caught Liston blind, and high on his cheek. Harry Markson, the boss of boxing at Madison Square Garden, said he was satisfied Liston was legitimately hurt. Former heavyweight champion Jim Braddock said that before getting hit with the kayo punch, Liston was still woozy from a previous right that had landed flush. Liston cornerman Milt Bailey said that after the fight, the former champion asked him for smelling salts in the dressing room.

In a particularly eerie prediction, Ali had said, "If I was to tell you what will happen, no one would come to see the fight. That's how shocking it would be. They might even say the fight was fixed."

They did say it because it wasn't. ■



Is the fight over? Damned if Walcott knows. Ali and Liston actually resumed fighting until The Ring *Editor and Publisher Nat Fleischer informed the referee that the timekeeper had counted to 10.*

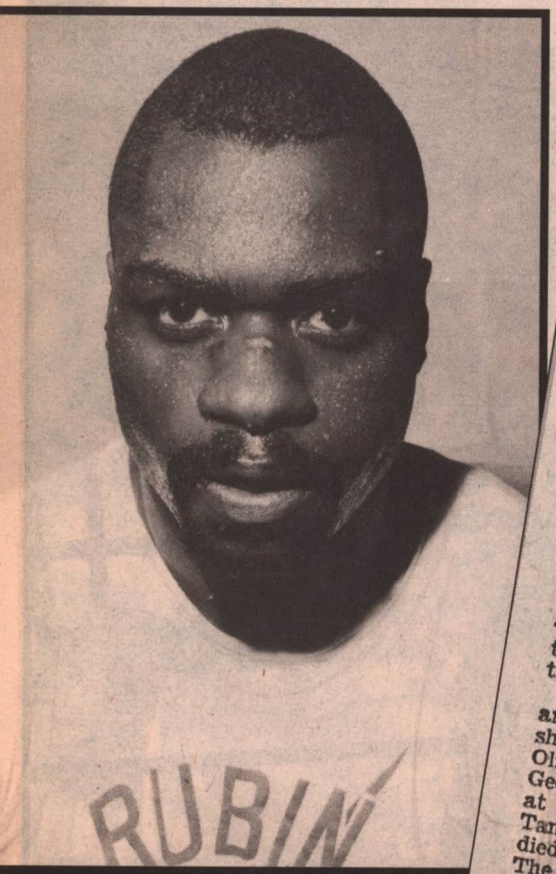
Hurricane Carter vs. The State of New Jersey

What Happened: On October 14, 1966, middleweight contender Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and acquaintance John Artis were arrested and charged with murder in regard to a June 16 shooting at a Paterson, New Jersey, bar that left three dead and one wounded.

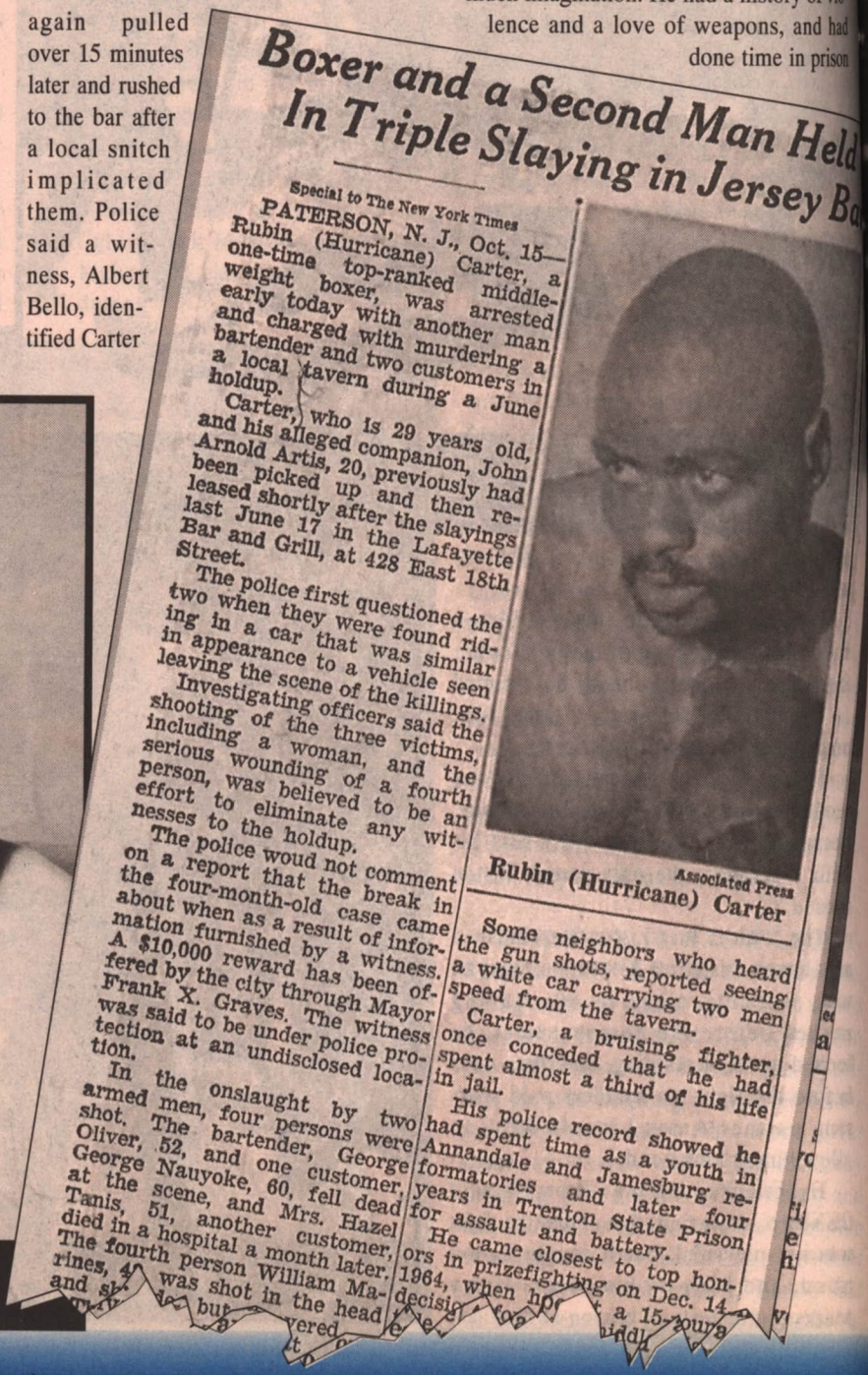
THE CONTROVERSY: Carter and Artis were twice convicted despite little evidence and a rush of celebrity support (Muhammad Ali, Bob Dylan) championing the fighter's innocence. Carter served 18 years before his conviction was overturned.

EVIDENCE CARTER WAS GUILTY: Carter came under immediate suspicion because his car matched the description of the assailant's auto, and he was pulled over blocks from the crime scene moments after the shootings. A police sergeant immediately released Carter after recognizing the boxer, but he and Artis were again pulled over 15 minutes later and rushed to the bar after a local snitch implicated them. Police said a witness, Albert Bello, identified Carter as one of the two men leaving the Lafayette Bar & Grill just after the shootings. Police also said they found a bullet from a .32 handgun and a shell for a 12-gauge shotgun in Carter's trunk. The victims at the Lafayette had been shot with a .32 and a 12-gauge.

Linking Carter to the crime didn't take much imagination. He had a history of violence and a love of weapons, and had done time in prison



Middleweight contender Carter served 18 years in prison for murders he was wrongly convicted of.



Boxer and a Second Man Held In Triple Slaying in Jersey Ba

Special to The New York Times

PATERSON, N. J., Oct. 15—Rubin (Hurricane) Carter, a one-time top-ranked middleweight boxer, was arrested early today with another man and charged with murdering a bartender and two customers in a local tavern during a June holdup.

Carter, who is 29 years old, and his alleged companion, John Arnold Artis, 20, previously had been picked up and then released shortly after the slayings last June 17 in the Lafayette Bar and Grill, at 428 East 18th Street.

The police first questioned the two when they were found riding in a car that was similar in appearance to a vehicle seen leaving the scene of the killings.

Investigating officers said the shooting of the three victims, including a woman, and the serious wounding of a fourth person, was believed to be an effort to eliminate any witnesses to the holdup.

The police woud not comment on a report that the break in the four-month-old case came about when as a result of information furnished by a witness. A $10,000 reward has been offered by the city through Mayor Frank X. Graves. The witness was said to be under police protection at an undisclosed location.

In the onslaught by two armed men, four persons were shot. The bartender, George Oliver, 52, and one customer, George Nauyoke, 60, fell dead at the scene, and Mrs. Hazel Tanis, 51, another customer, died in a hospital a month later. The fourth person William Marines, 4[illegible] was shot in the head and sh[illegible] but [illegible]vered [illegible]

Associated Press

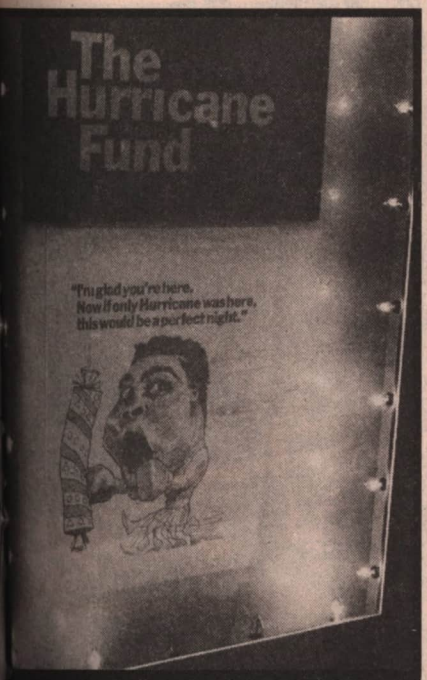
Rubin (Hurricane) Carter

Some neighbors who heard the gun shots, reported seeing a white car carrying two men speed from the tavern.

Carter, a bruising fighter, once conceded that he had spent almost a third of his life in jail.

His police record showed he had spent time as a youth in Annandale and Jamesburg reformatories and later four years in Trenton State Prison for assault and battery.

He came closest to top honors in prizefighting on Dec. 14, 1964, when ho[illegible] a 15-[illegible] decisi[illegible]



While imprisoned, Carter became a cause celebre. *Among others, Muhammad Ali and Bob Dylan supported his quest for justice.*

because of both. While Carter claimed he was on the verge of his second title shot, and that certain people didn't want him to win a championship, he was, in fact, on the downside of his career. Just before his arrest, he had dropped a 10-round decision to Rocky Rivero in South America.

While Carter insinuated he had been caught in a conspiracy ("The cops didn't want the public to listen to me, didn't want people to become aware of the genocide that was heading their way in the name of the law ... The crime was a Godsend to the cops ... they were able to kill two birds with one stone; rid the books of the city's most heinous crime and send that troublesome nigger to the electric chair"), he had aroused suspicion because he had indeed been stopped blocks from the crime scene in a car that almost exactly matched the car seen by a witness leaving the bar.

EVIDENCE CARTER WAS INNOCENT: If the case occurred today, Carter not only wouldn't stand trial, but he'd have grounds for a healthy lawsuit against the police. Nobody at the crime scene identified Carter and Artis as the gunmen, which is why they were originally released. In fact, hours after the shooting, a survivor told police the men were definitely not the murderers.

Although police claim to have found shells from a .32 and a 12-gauge in Carter's trunk, the fighter and Artis weren't confronted about the discovery until months later. Nobody other than the officer who found the bullets had witnessed the search.

Bello, who three weeks after the shooting positively identified Carter, admitted he had been near the bar because he was casing a nearby business for a robbery. Bello also admitted robbing the cash register of the Lafayette as three of the four patrons lay dying in the bar. His background, and his claim that Carter chased him from the scene but couldn't catch him (Carter being a world-class athlete, Bello being barely 5'5" and overweight), don't support his "eyewitness" account.

Paterson police also admitted they had chased a white car from the crime scene that was heading north, but lost the vehicle. Moments later, they encountered Carter's car, which was traveling in the opposite direction of the first white auto. Police also said that when they first pulled over Carter's car, there were three men inside; witnesses said only two men were present during the shootings. Moreover, both times police encountered Carter's car, Artis was driving at normal speed and did not attempt to initiate a chase.

Those who implicated Carter and Artis later recanted their testimony during a retrial 10 years after the pair was initially convicted. Carter and Artis were nonetheless found guilty in their second trial. ■

Carter is escorted into a Newark, New Jersey, federal courthouse in 1985, where a judge overturned his triple-murder conviction and finally released him from prison after 18 years. He now resides in Canada, making a comfortable living on the lecture circuit.

Sugar Ray Leonard KO 8 Roberto Duran November 25, 1980, New Orleans, Louisiana

What Happened: Leonard regained the WBC welterweight title just five months after losing it to Duran when the Panamanian suddenly quit in the eighth round, uttering the now-famous line of surrender, "No mas."

The Controversy: WHY DID DURAN QUIT?

THE THEORIES: Three theories abound over the perplexing behavior of a fighter who would supposedly rather have died than lost. Theory one: In a roundabout way, Duran took a dive as part of a betting coup. But there was no flood of late wagering, and Duran stood to make at least $8-million by next fighting Thomas Hearns—but only if he beat Leonard first.

SPORTS FINAL

DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1980

Sunny, cool, near 50. Details p. 3

LEONARD IN 8!

DURAN QUITS

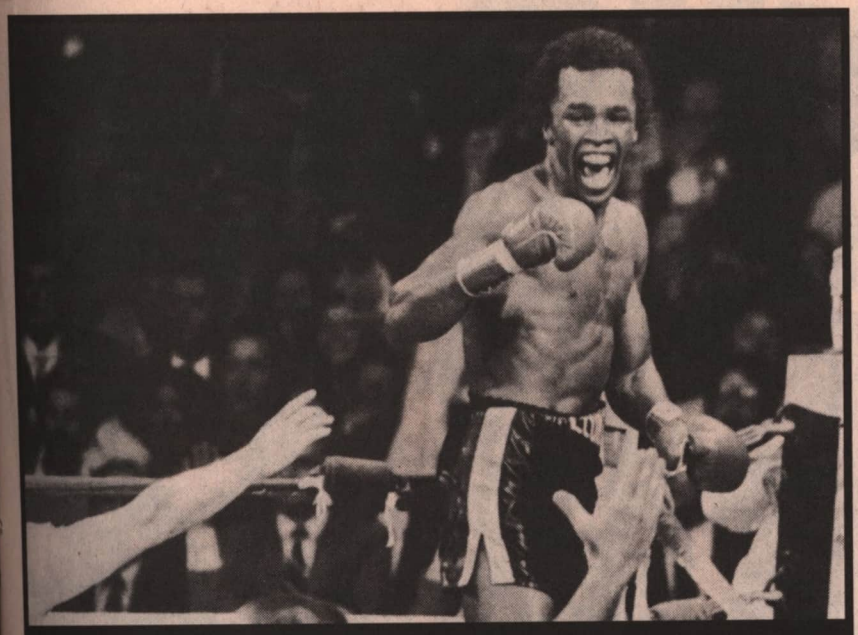
Sugar Ray Leonard misses Roberto Duran with a right in the second round of their WBC welterweight championship fight in New Orleans last night. At left, Leonard celebrates victory with manager Angelo Dundee after Duran refused to continue the fight in the eighth round. Story on back p...

Leonard was outboxing Duran in their rematch, but the fight was fairly close, and there was no reason to think Duran would be discouraged enough to surrender.

Theory two: Stomach cramps forced Duran to quit. The champion opened training camp six weeks before the fight at an obese 169 pounds. Duran starved himself to make weight, then gorged himself on the morning of the fight, just after the weigh-in. Immediately after stepping off the scale at the Superdome, he downed a thermos of hot beef broth and ate three oranges. He then went to a steakhouse, where he devoured a 16-ounce slab of beef and the better part of a second steak, washing it down with three glasses of orange juice. At 4:30 p.m., four hours before the fight, Duran ate another steak and drank two more glasses of juice. All this on a stomach that had been empty only hours before, as Duran, in order to make the 147-pound limit, had eaten and drunk nothing 24 hours prior to the weigh-in.

Duran's personal doctor, Orlando Nunez, said the fighter's eating binge resulted in cramps and dizziness during the fight, and that Duran had to quit or he would have fainted.

Leonard himself was puzzled by Duran's surrender. The challenger was narrowly ahead on all three cards, but it had been a tame match, and neither fighter had ever been in danger. When he saw Duran wave him away, "I figured it was a trick,"



His first victory over Duran was among the most satisfying of Leonard's career. He had not only avenged his first defeat by outfighting the Panamanian legend, but had also broken Duran in a psychological sense. Their third fight wouldn't occur for another nine years.

recalled Sugar Ray. After the bout, the new champion said of his rival, "He must have had heartburn."

"Something had to be wrong with him," wrote *The New York Times'* Dave Anderson, noting Duran's violent behavior during and following his only previous loss (to Esteban DeJesus). "He had to be frustrated from what he felt within his body."

Theory three comes from those close to Duran. Says a current handler, who asked not to be named, "This may not sound all that juicy, but he realized he wasn't going to win the fight, said 'the hell with it,' and decided to wait for another rematch. He didn't train right, and Leonard was hurting him with his punches. Duran always said Leonard hit hard."

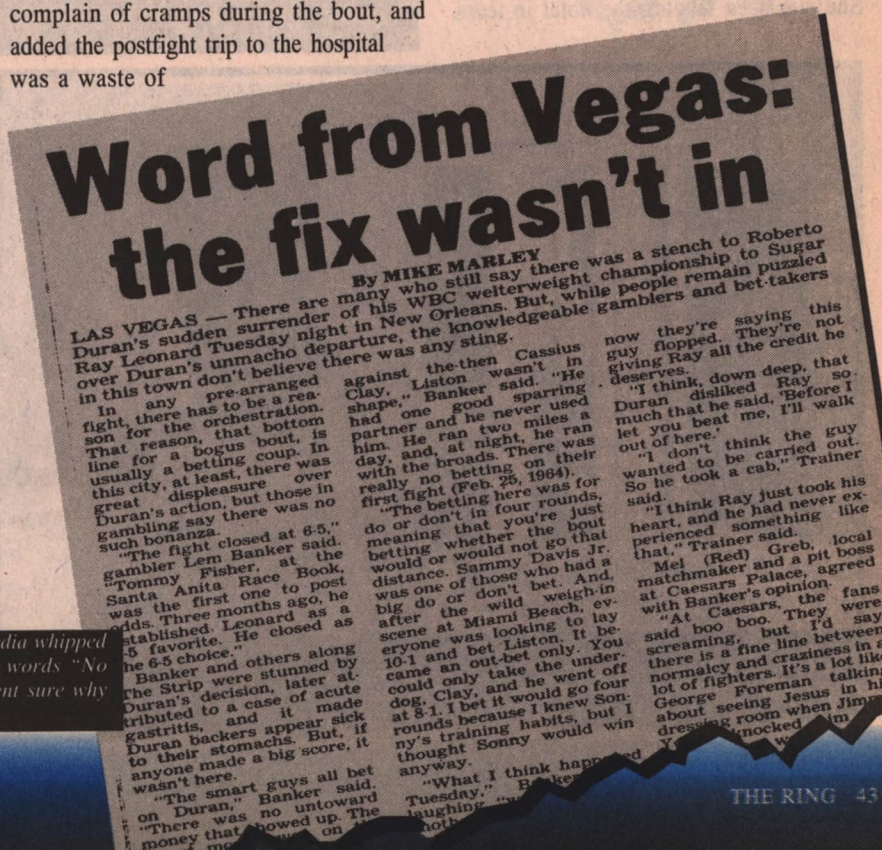
Longtime Duran friend and former translator Luis Henriquez said the fighter asked him to invent an excuse immediately after the fight. Henriquez asked Duran if he had been injured in any way, and the Panamanian replied that his stomach bothered him. Henriquez then invented the story about stomach cramps. "He didn't have cramps. He just quit, and that was it," he later said.

Trainer Ray Arcel said Duran didn't complain of cramps during the bout, and added the postfight trip to the hospital was a waste of time. Noting that Leonard's taunting during the seventh round had angered his fighter, Arcel said, "Duran wasn't used to being treated that way. Who knew what was going on in his head? He needed a mental examination, not a physical exam."

Ringsiders observed that just before Duran quit, he smiled and sneered at Leonard. He did not appear to be a man in distress. "He was disgusted with himself, Leonard, the fight," theorized legendary manager-trainer Cus D'Amato. "[By quitting] he was saying to Leonard, 'I'm through with you.'"

Duran's pain and embarrassment was no doubt dulled by the $8-million payday. Thanks to a prefight letter of credit from promoter Don King, the money was safely in Panama. (The Louisiana commission fined Duran a paltry $7,500 for his quit job.)

Before meeting Leonard the first time, Duran's highest purse had been $250,000. With the $9.5-million he raked in from his two bouts vs. Sugar Ray, he switched from hamburgers to steak, and it cost him the title and, worse yet, his reputation. ■



Word from Vegas: the fix wasn't in

By MIKE MARLEY

LAS VEGAS — There are many who still say there was a stench to Roberto Duran's sudden surrender of his WBC welterweight championship to Sugar Ray Leonard Tuesday night in New Orleans. But, while people remain puzzled over Duran's unmacho departure, the knowledgeable gamblers and bet-takers in this town don't believe there was any sting.

In any pre-arranged fight, there has to be a reason for the orchestration. That reason, that bottom line for a bogus bout, is usually a betting coup. In this city, at least, there was great displeasure over Duran's action, but those in gambling say there was no such bonanza.

"The fight closed at 6-5," gambler Lem Banker said. "Tommy Fisher, at the Santa Anita Race Book, was the first one to post odds. Three months ago, he established Leonard as a 5-5 favorite. He closed as the 6-5 choice."

Banker and others along The Strip were stunned by Duran's decision, later attributed to a case of acute gastritis, and it made Duran backers appear sick to their stomachs. But, if anyone made a big score, it wasn't here.

"The smart guys all bet on Duran," Banker said. "There was no untoward money that showed up. The

against the then Cassius Clay, Liston wasn't in shape," Banker said. "He had one good sparring partner and he never used him. He ran two miles a day, and, at night, he ran with the broads. There was really no betting on their first fight (Feb. 25, 1964).

"The betting here was for do or don't in four rounds, meaning that you're just betting whether the bout would or would not go that distance. Sammy Davis Jr. was one of those who had a big do or don't bet. And, after the wild weigh-in scene at Miami Beach, everyone was looking to lay 10-1 and bet Liston. It became an out-bet only. You could only take the underdog. Clay, and he went off at 8-1. I bet it would go four rounds because I knew Sonny's training habits, but I thought Sonny would win anyway.

"What I think happened Tuesday," Banker

now they're saying this guy flopped. They're not giving Ray all the credit he deserves.

"I think, down deep, that Duran disliked Ray so much that he said, 'Before I let you beat me, I'll walk out of here.'

"I don't think the guy wanted to be carried out. So he took a cab," Trainer said.

"I think Ray just took his heart, and he had never experienced something like that," Trainer said.

Mel (Red) Greb, local matchmaker and a pit boss at Caesars Palace, agreed with Banker's opinion.

"At Caesars, the fans said boo boo. They were screaming, but I'd say there is a fine line between normalcy and craziness in a lot of fighters. It's a lot like George Foreman talking about seeing Jesus in his dressing room when Jim[illegible] knocked [illegible]

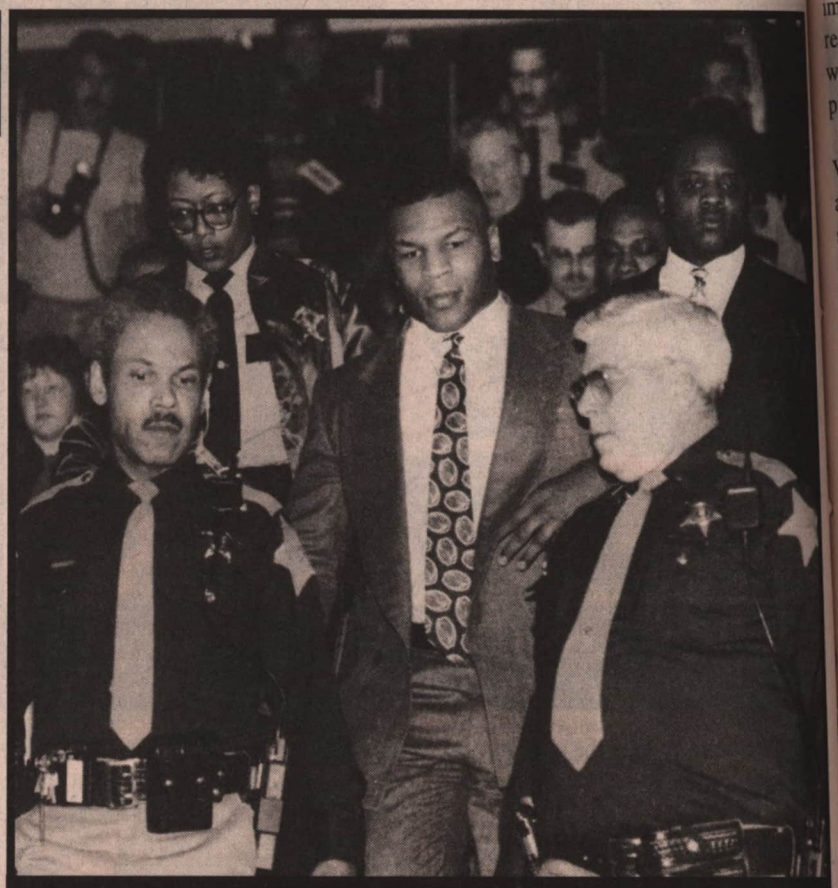
It was no surprise that when Duran quit, the media whipped itself into a frenzy. Seventeen years after the words "No mas" were muttered, we're still not 100 percent sure why Duran committed his unpardonable sin.

Mike Tyson vs. The State of Indiana
February 10, 1992

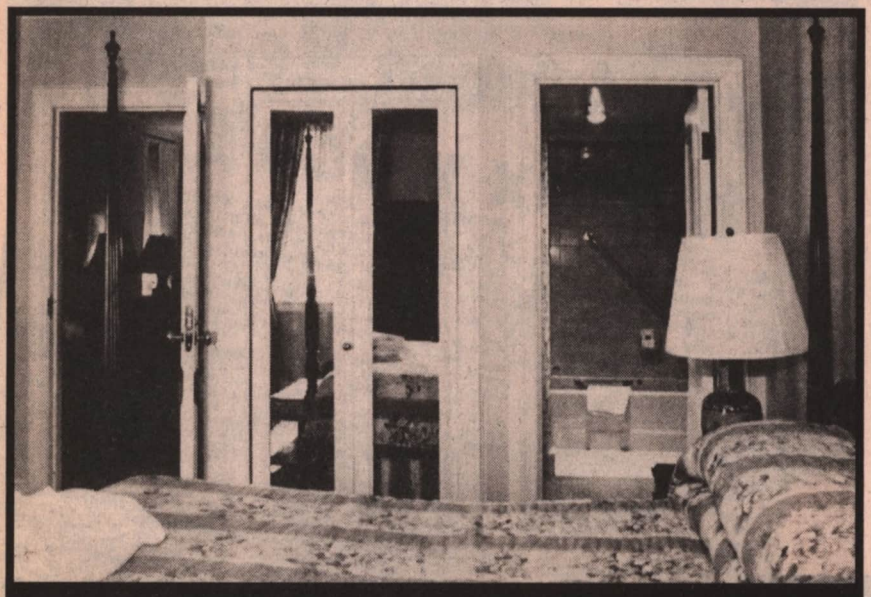
What Happened: Former heavyweight champion Tyson was invited to Indianapolis by promoters of the Miss Black America pageant. On July 19, 1991, he had an early-morning date with 18-year-old Desiree Washington, a contestant from Rhode Island. He was subsequently charged with raping Washington in her hotel room.

The Controversy: Standing trial in Indiana, Tyson, who pleaded not guilty, was convicted of four counts relating to the rape charge and sentenced to six years in prison. After serving three years at the Indiana Youth Center in Plainfield, he was released and continues to maintain his innocence.

EVIDENCE TYSON COMMITTED THE CRIME: Medical tests showed Washington had been sexually assaulted. She was seen leaving the hotel in tears, and reported the crime the next day, after speaking on the phone to her mother. Tyson, scheduled to stay in Indianapolis another two days, caught a flight home three hours after he saw Washington. He informed no one at the pageant of his sudden departure.



Tyson leaves court in Indianapolis after being convicted. He would spend three years in prison.



The room at the Canterbury Hotel where Tyson had sex with 18-year-old Miss Black America contestant Desiree Washington, which a jury deemed rape.

Painted by defense lawyers as a gold-digger, Washington, fresh out of high school, claimed she barely knew who Mike Tyson was. She insisted she had no idea of the fighter's reputation as an aggressive pursuer of women, nor of his alleged assaults on women in the past. She told investigators she knew of Tyson only because her father had spoken of him as a great boxer.

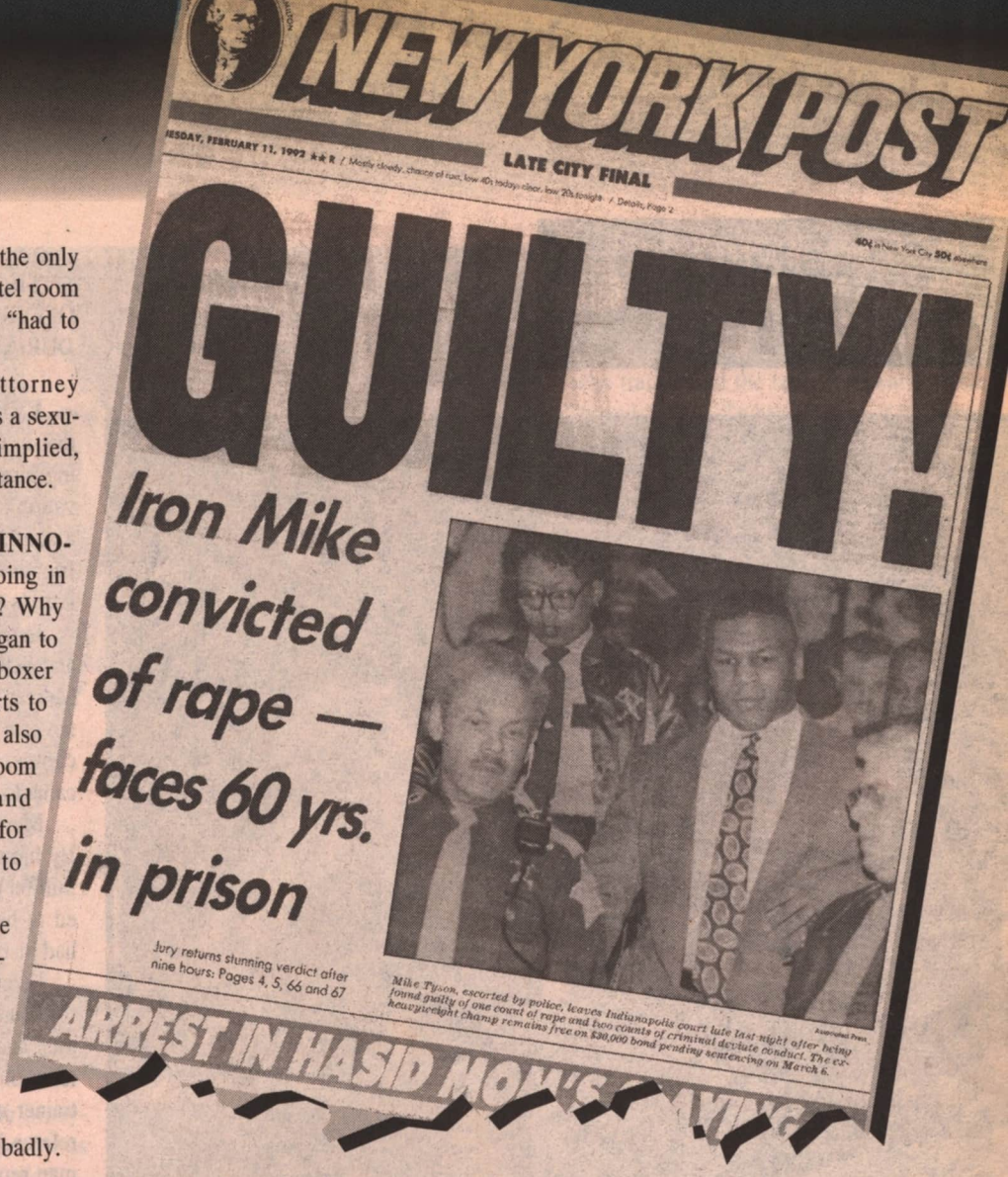
The victim's pageant roommate told investigators Washington had been reluctant to go out with Tyson because the boxer had called past midnight for an

impromptu date. Washington said the only reason she had gone to Tyson's hotel room was because the boxer told her he "had to pick up something."

During the trial, defense attorney Vincent Fuller painted his client as a sexual predator. Washington, Fuller implied, should have known to keep her distance.

EVIDENCE TYSON WAS INNOCENT: What was Washington doing in Tyson's hotel room at 1:30 a.m.? Why didn't she scream when Tyson began to "assault" her? (She testified the boxer never covered her mouth in efforts to muffle any potential protest.) She also acknowledged going to the bathroom just before the alleged rape and removing a panty liner, an odd act for a woman who wasn't intending to have consensual sex.

Tyson offered a plausible motive for Washington's allegations: He refused to walk her downstairs, gruffly dismissing her moments after the sex ended. An obviously angry Washington left in a huff, and Tyson told his next-door bodyguard he had treated her badly.


NEW YORK POST

LATE CITY FINAL

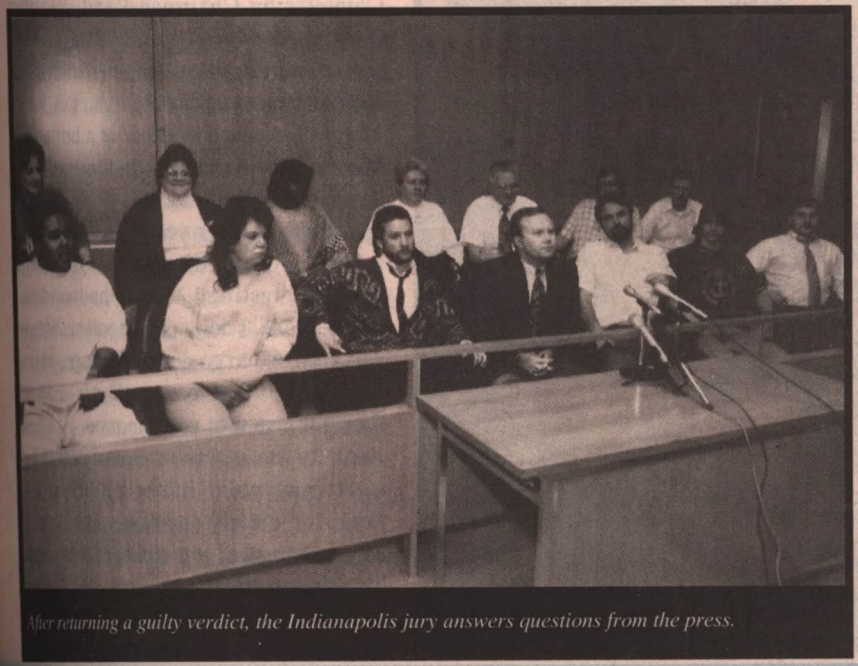
GUILTY!

Iron Mike convicted of rape — faces 60 yrs. in prison

Jury returns stunning verdict after nine hours: Pages 4, 5, 66 and 67

Mike Tyson, escorted by police, leaves Indianapolis court late last night after being found guilty of one count of rape and two counts of criminal deviate conduct. The ex-heavyweight champ remains free on $30,000 bond pending sentencing on March 6.

ARREST IN HASID MOL'S

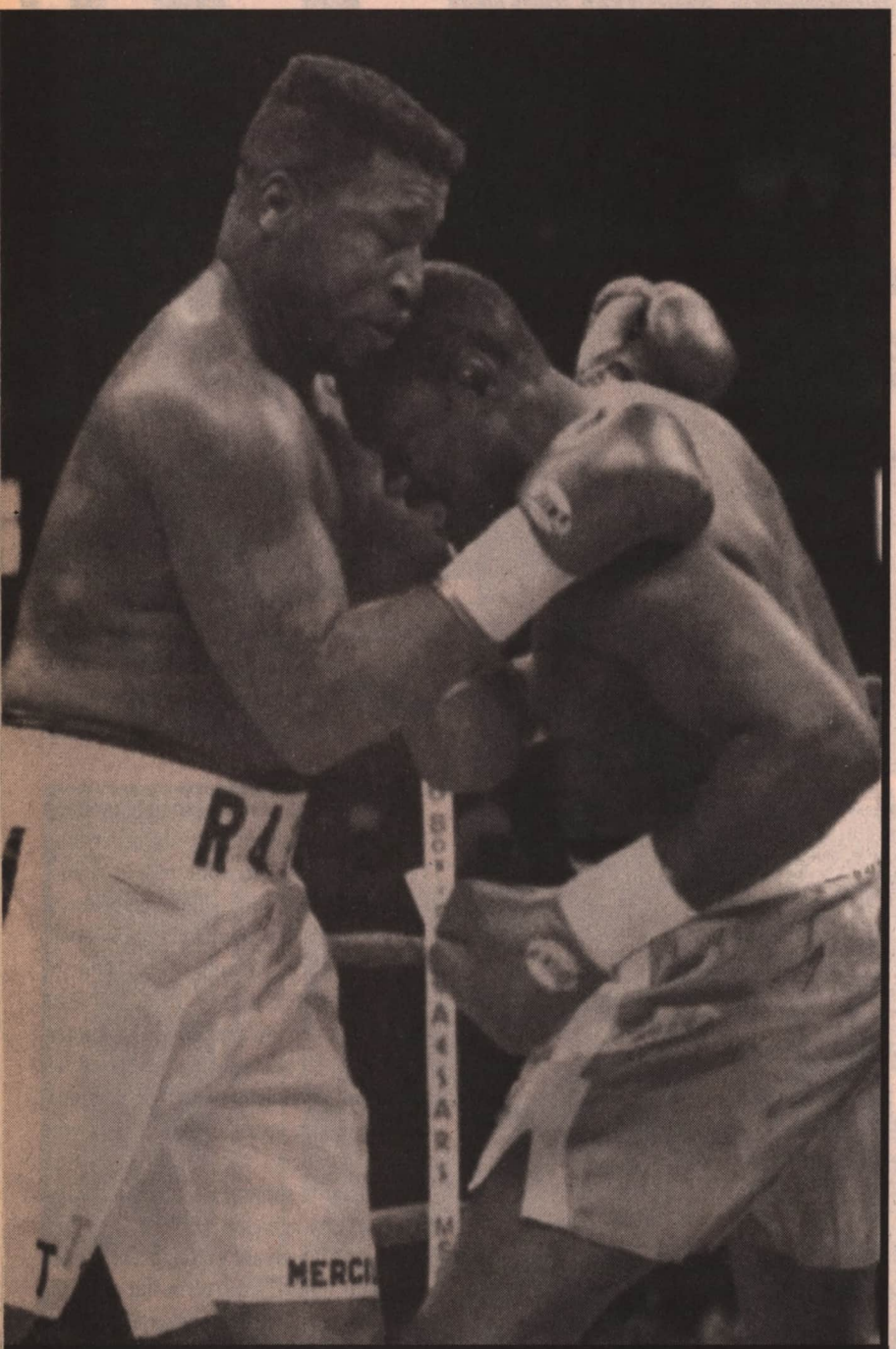

After returning a guilty verdict, the Indianapolis jury answers questions from the press.

Washington had other possible motives. Although she insisted she was never after Tyson's money, she nonetheless filed a seven-figure civil suit against the boxer. It was also revealed a year after Tyson's conviction that a former boyfriend of Washington's claimed that she had accused him of rape after consensual intercourse in 1989 when her father found out and reacted so violently that Washington's mother had him arrested and charged with assault and battery.

Washington showed an obvious interest with Tyson by agreeing to go out with him at 1 a.m. Although she claimed she wanted to go with him to a party in the city, she made no protest when Tyson invited her up to his hotel room, and did not protest, at least according to the boxer and a bodyguard in a neighboring room, when Tyson initiated sex. ■

Jesse Ferguson W 10 Ray Mercer
February 6, 1993, Madison Square Garden, New York City

What Happened: Trialhorse Ferguson, a loser in five of his last six bouts, upsets Mercer, costing him a shot at world champion Riddick Bowe.



When tangled in clinches, did Mercer whisper into Ferguson's ear? And if he did, was he talking trash, offering a bribe, or simply trying to distract his opponent?

The Controversy: DID MERCER OFFER FERGUSON A $100,000 BRIBE DURING THE BOUT TO LAY DOWN?

EVIDENCE HE DID: Ferguson stated that in the third round, Mercer began offering him the money. Ferguson had no motivation to lie, as he won the fight and earned a shot at Bowe. Moreover, Ferguson was friends with Mercer, having served as the latter's sparring partner for other fights.

Ferguson's co-managers, Greg Cohen and Seth Braunstein, were close to one-time Mercer manager Marc Roberts. There was never a hint of animosity between the two camps, even after the alleged bribe offer came to light.

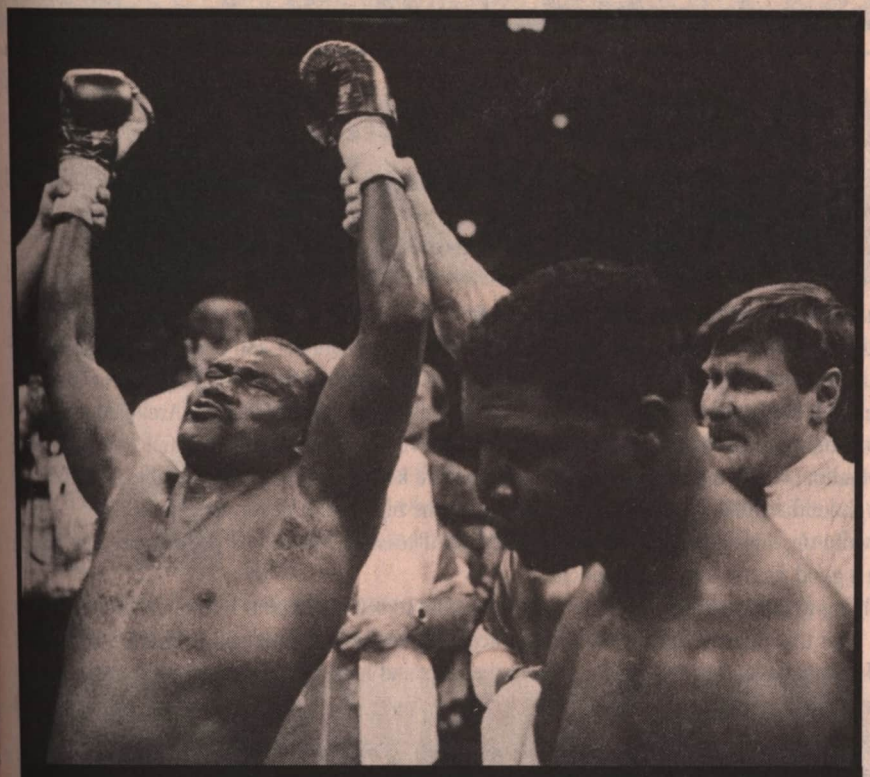
Mercer had plenty of motivation to lie. By blowing the fight, he was losing a $1.5-million payday, money he desperately needed to help pay off a $750,000 mansion he had just purchased in North Carolina.

Ferguson turned down the alleged bribe offer and casually mentioned it to his cornermen and managers after the bout. Word filtered through the boxing world, and when a trainer not affiliated with either fighter told referee Wayne Kelly of the rumor, the third man reported it to New York State Athletic Commission Chairman Randy Gordon. Gordon went directly to the Manhattan district attorney's office, and after studying an audio-enhanced tape of the fight, DA Robert Morgenthau found evidence of a bribe offer. Mercer was arrested in Indianapolis and arraigned in New York on a Class D felony, punishable by seven years in prison.

In the trial the following March, Ferguson testified Mercer had said in a clinch, "Man, I don't got it tonight. I'll give you $100,000 to go down." On tape, Mercer was clearly heard to say, "That's your cut, man. I'll give it to you tomorrow … on my word; fix you up. I swear on my mother."

At one point in the eighth round, Ferguson clearly shook his head after a Mercer comment and replied, "You should have trained, Ray."

When Mercer attorney Dominick Amorosa pointed out to Ferguson that no



His points win over Mercer was the biggest victory of Ferguson's journeyman career. The upset earned him a title shot against world champion Riddick Bowe, who took him out in two rounds.

actual money offer was audible, the heavyweight replied, "I don't need a tape. I was the man in the ring. I know what he said."

EVIDENCE MERCER WAS INNOCENT: After just five hours of deliberation, the six-man, six-woman jury cleared Mercer.

Referee Kelly testified he had heard plenty of talking between the boxers, but added that Ferguson had done most of the jabbering, and none of the talk had concerned money. Kelly said both fighters had participated in the standard trash-talk a referee hears during a match.

Shortly after the charges had become public, Ferguson said on ESPN, "I came into the fight knowing I could beat him. [There was] no bribe. Nothing was said. I ain't heard nothing about no money."

Prosecutors were overzealous in gathering evidence. Ferguson was told that if he didn't testify that Mercer had offered him money to lose, he was open to charges of not reporting a bribe offer. Ferguson faced not only losing his boxing license, but joining Mercer in prison.

State Police investigator Gustav Talleur, who transcribed the tape, frequently wrote "sounds like … " when not sure of the actual words spoken by the fighters. Talleur not only heard no bribe offer, but drew questionable conclusions regarding some of the more muffled comments. For example, the prosecution alleged that Ferguson had appeared to mull the bribe offer based on Talleur having recorded him saying, " … you gonna set me up, man." Amorosa pointed out that Ferguson could have meant, "You were set up by your man," meaning Mercer's manager had set him up with the wrong fight.

The videotape with the enhanced audio contained so little hard evidence that Amorosa dropped a request to bar the tape two weeks before the trial.

Mercer said he understood why Ferguson testified. "He was put up to it," said the heavyweight, who had never before been charged with a crime. "He's a victim in this, too." ■

Four months after outpointing Ferguson in a rematch in Atlantic City, Mercer is acquitted of the bribery charge and is congratulated by defense attorney Brian Barrett. His trial was one of the most unusual stories in the long, dark history of the ring.

THE RING'S QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Compiled by Thad Moore

Q: WHAT WAS THE HIGH POINT OF BOXING IN 1996?

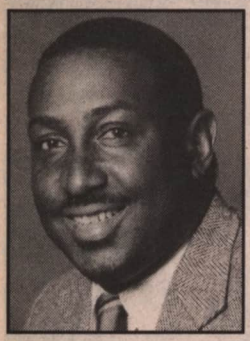
Dr. Ferdie Pacheco, Showtime boxing commentator: "The Holyfield-Tyson fight was clearly the best. Evander Holyfield proved that an underdog can win. We undervalue character and desire. Holyfield was able to impose his will. [Before the fight] I was praying to every boxing god that he wouldn't get hurt or die.

"It was a perfect 1948-designed fight. It reminded me of guys like Ezzard Charles, Archie Moore, Willie Pep, and Joe Brown fighting. Both guys trained very hard and were ready to fight. Holyfield was able to win using quick combinations and wrapping up the other guy before he could punch. He was able to tie Tyson up successfully throughout the fight. Tyson was looking to land one big shot. It never happened.

"As the fight wore on, Tyson became more confused, as if to say, 'What do I do with this guy?' Tyson turned from being a good fighter into just a puncher.

"Tyson was edging toward getting out of the fight by asking to see the doctor. He claims he doesn't know what happened. I think he's using this as an alibi that doesn't hold water. Tyson needs someone like Emanuel Steward, who is a great teacher, to settle him down during the fight. He may have to get rid of the guys in the suits and hats. Holyfield and his trainer had a two-man show going the whole fight. Both cooperated to win the fight."

Q: IF A HOLYFIELD-TYSON REMATCH IS MADE, CAN "THE REAL DEAL" AGAIN RISE TO THE OCCASION?



Tony Curtis, matchmaker for Forum Boxing: "I don't think he can do it again. He's 34. At that age you can only get yourself that high once. He beat the guy already. I don't think Holyfield will have that drive to beat him again. Economics will dictate what happens. The money involved won't allow him to fight at the same level.

"Holyfield trained 15 weeks for the first fight. That's a lot of sacrifice. At his age, I don't think his body will allow him to get through training at that level for a rematch.

"With a few adjustments, Tyson will win a rematch. Tyson needs to be in tip-top shape and have a fight plan. He needs to establish his jab, fight Holyfield at close range, and rip punches to the body and head. If he fights Holyfield on the inside, and uses roughhouse tactics to manhandle him, he should win. Tyson was swinging wildly and looking for a lucky punch in the first fight. Holyfield bullied him and pushed him back. If Tyson fights at close range this time, he will win.

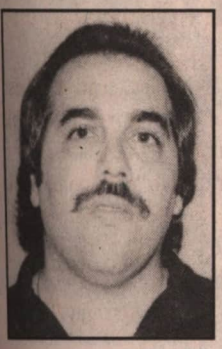
"I don't think Holyfield will be able to do it again."

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Evander Holyfield absorbed the biggest bombs of Mike Tyson en route to an upset 11th-round stoppage victory. According to Tony Curtis, Holyfield won't be able to duplicate the achievement.

What do boxing's insiders think of the hot issues? Each month, we'll come up with four or five questions, then grill the experts. If there's a topic you'd like examined, send your question to The Ring, Questions Of The Month, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034

Q: WHY ARE THERE MORE MISMATCHES TODAY THAN THERE USED TO BE?



Ron Katz, matchmaker for Top Rank: "Promoters and managers saddle their fighters. There's a lot of money available to undefeated fighters today, and managers and promoters try to protect them. It makes it difficult to make the best fights. All you need to make money in boxing is a championship.

"Teddy Brenner told me not to make a fight that I wouldn't want to see. The proliferation of titles today makes it easy for a fighter to not fight anybody and have a belt. The networks are more interested in high-profile names than competitive fights. Their justification is that high-profile names do better ratings. When I started at ESPN, every match I tried to make was a competitive match.

"People get a thrill out of seeing two guys go to war, not knowing who is going to win. A perfect example of a fighter who didn't stand up is Shannon Briggs. He knew he would always have it safe; his manager never put him in a real fight. Briggs had a lot of talent. Another guy is Mike Tyson. Who did he really ever fight?

"The managers and promoters are more to blame than anyone else. Ultimately, the networks let everyone get away with these mismatches. These people don't care about the integrity of the fights."

Q: IS WOMEN'S BOXING A FAD, OR IS IT HERE TO STAY?

Russell Peltz, promoter: "I hope it's a fad. I don't like to see women getting beat up by other women. I've enjoyed some of Christy Martin's fights, but that's a rarity. As soon as there is a serious injury to a woman fighter, it won't go any further. If a woman is taken to a hospital with a serious injury, that's where it will end.

"If we need women to boost the television ratings, then we have a problem. For every good women's fight we see, there are 15 bad fights. I am just not a big fan of it, and I hope it goes away.

"I can't think of making a women's match the same way I make a men's fight, like I would make a Sonny Liston-Mike Tyson fight. It will be a sad day when that happens. I can't think of making a women's match with fighters landing hard shots to the body and head. I don't want to have to think that way. That's the purist in me." ■

Is Christy Martin more popular than Hector Camacho? Says veteran promoter and purist Russell Peltz of women's boxing, "I hope it goes away."

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Coming Up From Down Under

HERE'S TO YOU KOSTYA TSZYU

Tszyu received military training in Russia, but as an elite athlete, he spent most of his time in sports camps, where the boxers did little but train, eat, and sleep.

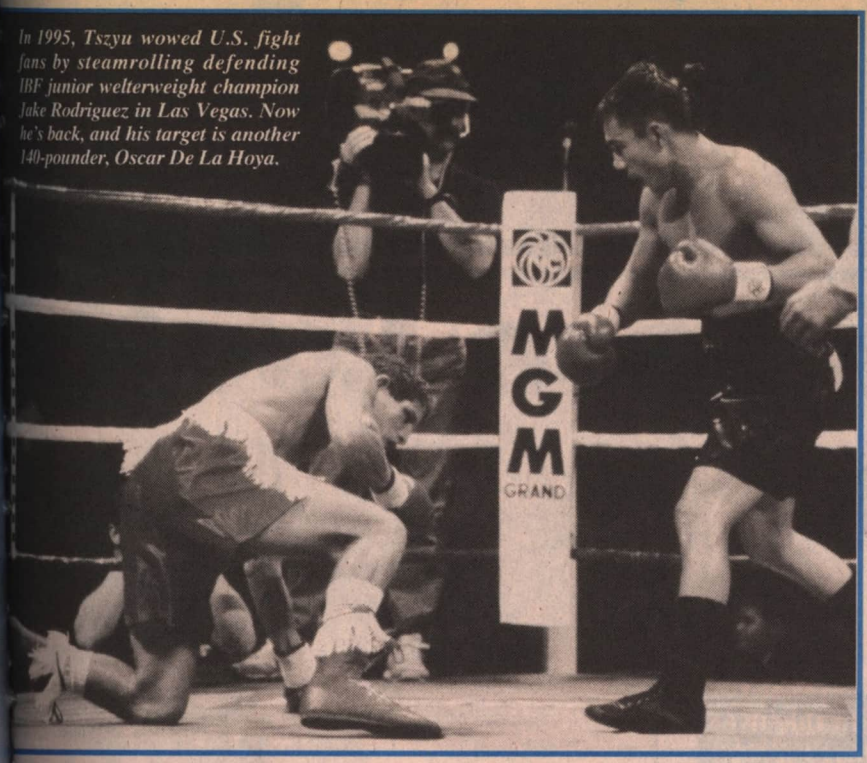
By Terry Smith

A novelist requiring rescue from writer's block could draw inspiration from Kostya Tszyu's unlikely rise from Serov, a small city in Russia's Ural Mountains, to become IBF junior welterweight champion—and an Australian champion at that. The plot would include all the classic ingredients of a blockbuster: a chance meeting, an escape from Siberia, a love story, and dollars, maybe even millions and millions of them.

The script for 1997 includes Tszyu coming to the United States. The ultimate goal is a showdown with WBC champion Oscar De La Hoya, and if Tszyu is asked to dispose of aging legend Julio Cesar Chavez along the way, so much the better.

Since capturing the title from Jake Rodriguez in January 1995, Tszyu has defended against Roger Mayweather (W 12), Colombia's Hugo Pineda (KO 11), Corey Johnson (KO 4), and South Africa's Jan Bergman (KO 6), and extended his record to 18-0 (14). Between them, Pineda and Bergman, both mandatory challengers, were unbeaten in 60 bouts.

Tszyu is eagerly anticipating a clash with De La Hoya, which became a strong possibility when he signed with Top Rank in October. Trainer Johnny Lewis, who guided Jeff Fenech and Jeff Harding to world titles, says, "De La Hoya even throws combinations out of his backside, so nobody can outpoint him. However, we think Kostya can catch him on the button and knock him out."



In 1995, Tszyu wowed U.S. fight fans by steamrolling defending IBF junior welterweight champion Jake Rodriguez in Las Vegas. Now he's back, and his target is another 140-pounder, Oscar De La Hoya.

"I'm not afraid of De La Hoya," said Tszyu. "A boxer is an artist. I go into the ring to show my artistry. Everyone wants to be famous. If I don't box, I won't be famous. Maybe I be lawyer or accountant."

With his Asian looks coming from a Korean grandfather, Tszyu adopted his pigtail while in South Korea for the 1988 Olympics, where he lost a close decision to the ultimate lightweight gold medalist, East Germany's Andreas Zuelow. "I thought it looked manly," he explains.

A locksmith who had once been a boxer, Boris Tszyu took his son to the gym in Serov to learn boxing when Kostya was only nine and weighing all of 60 pounds. The boy's talents developed quickly, and at 15 he was a member of the Soviet sports team competing internationally. Instead of going to school, he was sent to camps in the mountains or forest, where the boxers did little more than train, eat, and sleep.

Spotting Tszyu while in Moscow with Australia's amateurs in 1990, Lewis came home and told promoter Bill Mordey he had seen a Russian with boxing talents that had taken his breath away.

When Tszyu came to Sydney a year later for the world amateur championships, Mordey took one look and he, too, was hooked. In winning the world crown, Tszyu wasn't one of the prototypical stick-straight Soviet glovemen. "His style is a gift from God," his coach explained. "We dared not change it."

The night after the finals, he phoned his mother, Valentina, in Russia, put down the phone, and announced he was turning his back on a seemingly certain gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics to embark on a professional career with Lewis and Mordey. Having won 259 of 270 bouts, he was quitting the amateur ranks with a world title, three European championships, and a gold medal at the Goodwill Games.

With Russia's bureaucracy in tatters, it took many months of cutting through red tape before Tszyu arrived back in Sydney with his 19-year-old fiancee, Natasha. Now they have a two-year-old son Timophey, described by Natasha as "the joy of his father's life."

His parents have joined him in Sydney, where Tszyu loves the warmth of air and the warmth of people. In Serov, winters last six months, with the snow often waist-deep.

Making his pro debut on the Azumah Nelson-Jeff Fenech II card in Melbourne in March 1992, Tszyu needed only 70 seconds to bomb out 1988 Seoul Olympian Darrell Hiles. Jay Larkin, Showtime's boxing boss, was awestruck. "Kostya put that guy away like a young Mike Tyson," he said. "Teach him English and this kid will make millions in America."

In January 1995, Tszyu, after scoring 13 consecutive victories, including points wins over former world champions Juan LaPorte and Livingstone Bramble and a first-round kayo of Sammy Fuentes, received his first title shot. His opponent was tough New York southpaw Rodriguez.

(Continued on page 71)

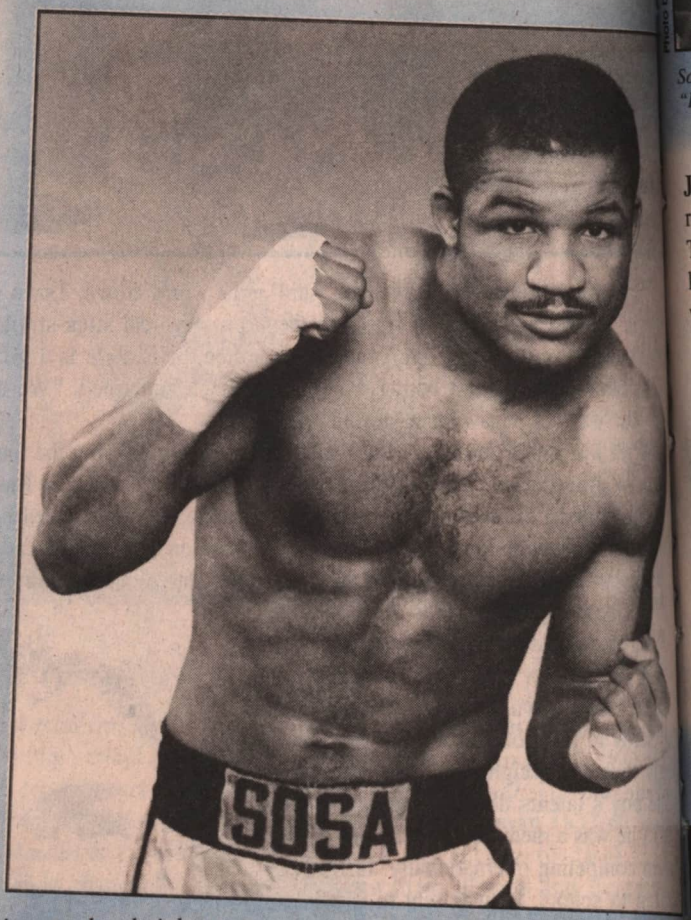
Natasha Tszyu seems just a bit relieved that her husband's 1994 battle with Hector Lopez is over. Tszyu won a 10-round decision. Lopez was an exception, as most opponents haven't been able to last the distance.

A DECADE TO REMEMBER

Merqui Sosa Looks At The '90s

What was it like to fight the best? In this five-part feature, ending this month, Robert Cassidy, a frequent contributor to THE RING, interviews one fighter from each of the last five decades.

This month: Merqui Sosa, a contender from middleweight to light heavyweight in the '90s



When Merqui Sosa came to New York in 1987, he was the prototypical stranger in a strange land. Unable to speak English, he had no choice but to let his boxing do the talking. And in the ring, he made himself perfectly understood.

Sosa was born in 1965 in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, and at age 22 came to New York to make his mark in professional boxing. But first he made his name in the gym. His sparring sessions were legendary. Sosa was responsible for breaking Michael Olajide's orbital bone and was dismissed as a sparring partner—he was judged too tough—by Sugar Ray Leonard and Donny Lalonde.

Promoted by Madison Square Garden Boxing, Sosa turned pro and quickly established himself as a middleweight prospect. He fought James Toney when both men were unbeaten, and has fearlessly challenged the best fighters from 160 to 175 pounds ever since. He has met six world champions (Toney, Steve Little, Frank Liles, Michael Nunn, Prince Charles Williams, and Roy Jones) and a handful of top-10 contenders.

At 6'1", Sosa is long, lean, and awkward to fight. He is not fond of the jab. Instead, he wades in, looping overhand rights or launching uppercuts. He has an excellent chin, once deemed the best in boxing by ***The Ring,*** *and possesses very good power. He has compiled a record of 27-5-2 (23).*

"If I give 100 percent and don't make it, then I can quit," said Sosa. "But I want to win a world title and then fight Toney, Liles, Nunn, and Jones, in that order. I want all the ones who beat me."

Sosa has been involved in several controversial fights. He feels he's been wronged by the politics of boxing because he is foreign-born. He has employed several different managers, including Pat Versace, John Reetz, and his current handler, Arnie Rosenthal.

"I've had a hard life in boxing because I'm from a small country," said Sosa. "I'm alone. But I still think I can change my destiny."

Sosa, 31, remains active as a light heavyweight. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife Jean and their two-year-old daughter, Scandinavia.

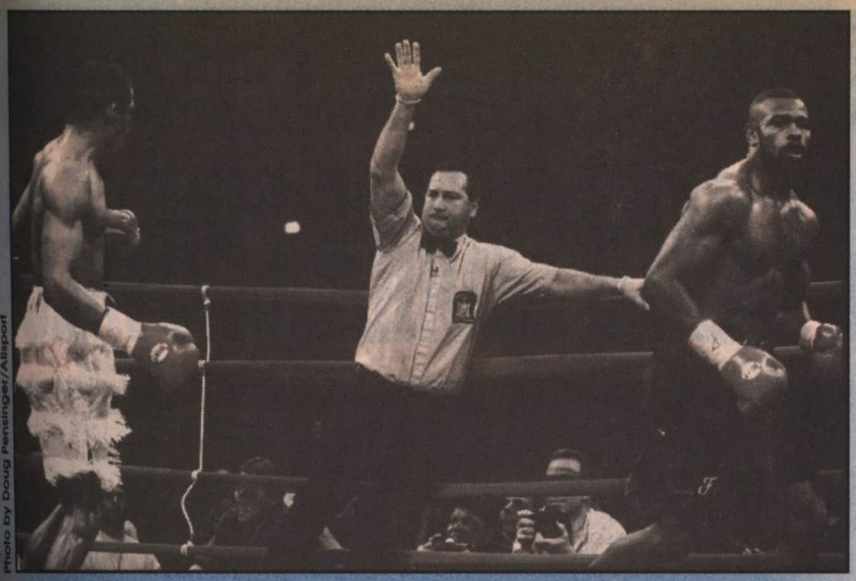


Photo by Doug Pensinger/Allsport

Sosa insists referee Ken Zimmer's stoppage of his January 1996 bout vs. Roy Jones was premature. "It took me two months to get over that fight," Sosa says.

•Sosa, 25, was 18-0 when he met **James Toney** in an ESPN-televised 12-round middleweight bout in January 1991. Toney, 22, was 23-0-1. Toney scored a knockdown en route to a split decision win. Two fights later, he scored a dramatic 11th-round knockout to upset Michael Nunn and win the IBF middleweight crown.

Sosa weighed 158, and Toney 160.

"It was my first big fight. I was undefeated and he was undefeated. I thought I would win, but the guy came in better shape than me. That was the difference. I knew at the end of the fight I wouldn't win, but I never quit.

"I had sparred with Pedro Saiz [a junior welterweight] and Julio Cesar Green [a junior middleweight] for that fight. But Toney was very strong. I realize now that I needed stronger sparring partners. The fight was very tough because he was stronger than I thought. Right away, I said to myself, 'This is going to be a long night.' But I'm not complaining. I lost. It was a good decision.

"It was very hard to hit Toney because of his position. He moved to the right, so if I tried to hit him with a right hand, I'd hit him in the back. He was awkward, but he was a very good fighter."

•In March 1991, less than two months after his first defeat as a pro, Sosa was back in the ring, fighting 28-year-old light heavyweight contender **Tyrone Frazier,** 19-2-2. Sosa weighed 169 pounds. In Frazier's two previous fights, he had lost to WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill and beaten future world champ Steve Little. Sosa managed to score a 10th-round knockout.

Sosa was then asked to fight 31-year-old super middleweight contender **Tony Thornton,** 27-4-1. In May 1991, he dropped a 10-round decision to "The Punching Postman."

"Top Rank played with my head for the Frazier fight. They said to me, 'If you beat Tyrone Frazier, you'll get a title shot.' I watched Frazier and said this guy can't go 10 rounds with me. I saw him fight, and I knew he was mine. He was right there for me. He fought my fight and I took him out.

"Then they made me fight Thornton. I thought I won that fight, but they didn't give me the decision. But I had no choice. That's what they gave me. I had to take those fights. I needed the money. I had to pay bills and take care of my family back in the Dominican Republic. Finally, they came back to me and offered me a title fight against Prince Charles Williams. I could barely make 168 pounds. I had to eat a lot just to get to 168. I said I wouldn't fight him, and that was it."

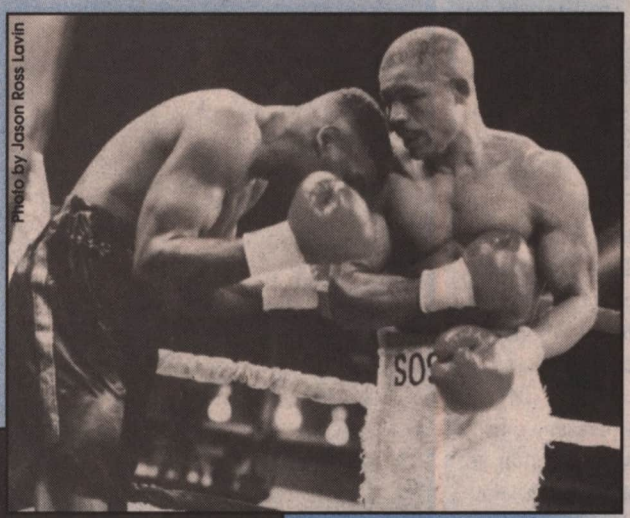
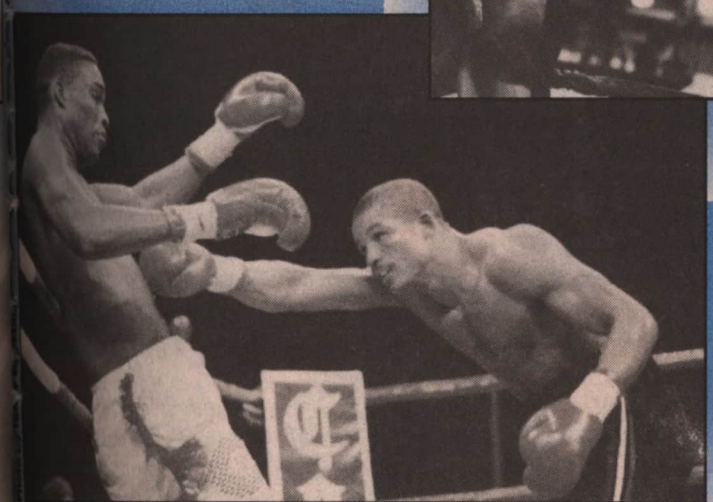


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin



What a difference styles can make. In December 1993, Sosa found himself chasing Michael Nunn (left), who outpointed him over 12 rounds. In June '95, however, he found a willing partner in Prince Charles Williams, whom he stopped in the 10th round (above).

•In October 1992, three weeks before his 27th birthday, Sosa fought **Frankie Liles** for the vacant NABF super middleweight title. Sosa, 21-2-1, weighed 165, and Liles, 22-1, 167. Liles, who had suffered his first and only loss in his previous fight (vs. Tim Littles), managed to stop Sosa in the 12th round. Three fights later, Liles captured the WBA super middleweight title.

(Continued on page 73)

Battered By Tragedy

EVEN LIFE CAN'T KAYO GEORGE CHUVALO

By Warren Tasker

The punishment, the pounding George Chuvalo absorbed inside the boxing ring pales in comparison to the heart-and-soul blows he's taken outside of the ring, where there is no break between rounds, and no bell to signal the end of the fight.

Muhammad Ali's flesh-tearing jab, Joe Frazier's jaw-breaking left hook, and George Foreman's double-barreled bombs did devastating damage, but couldn't put the Toronto native on the canvas. Fighting the best heavyweight champions in history during the '60s and '70s—that was the easy part.

Outside the ring, where life can be cruel, achingly mysterious, or indifferent, is where Chuvalo has taken the hardest hits and gone down more than once.

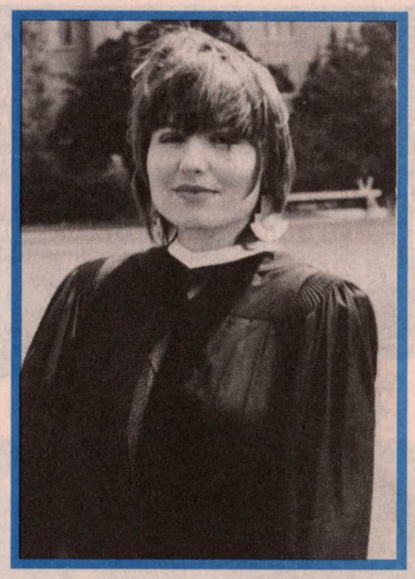
His litany of loss is long and heartbreaking. Chuvalo fought for more than three decades. During a 23-year career that began in 1956, he owned the Canadian title when it still meant something, was ranked in the top 10 for a decade, and battled the world's best, highlighted by a kayo victory over number-one contender Jerry Quarry in 1969. His overall record: 73-18-2 (64). In the '80s, he hoped for a pleasant retirement, taking time for his family after so many bruising wars. What he didn't know was that his toughest, most gut-wrenching battles were yet to take place.

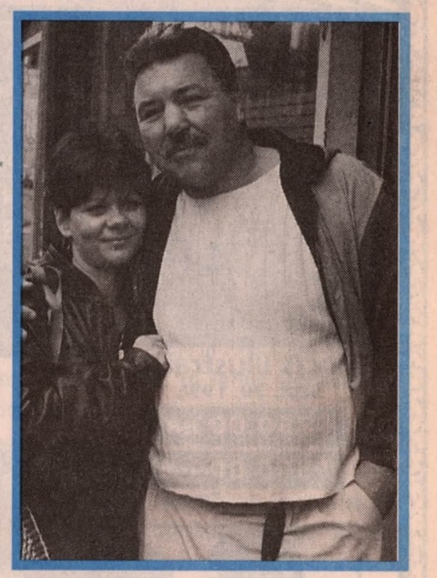
In the coldest February days of 1985, Chuvalo's 20-year-old son, Jesse Myles, took his own life in an attempt to escape the clutches of heroin addiction. He shot himself in the head. This was just the beginning.

Two of his other sons, Steven and George Lee, were shipped off to jail for robbing a drugstore in 1987. This would become a regular routine over the next decade: They'd steal to feed their ravenous drug habits, then get caught.

Longtime heavyweight contender George Chuvalo with son Steven and grandchildren Jesse and Rachel. In August, Steven died of a drug overdose, the most recent in a series of family tragedies.

The Chuvalos as a unit: (from left) Mitchell, George, Vanessa, wife Lynne, Jesse Myles, Steven, and George Lee. "I grew up in a loving family," says Mitchell.





Vanessa Chuvalo (left) has grown especially close to her father. "Family is everything to him," she says. Chuvalo and his wife Joanne (right), who knows, too, the pain of losing a child.

Six years later, on a fateful Halloween night, George Lee, having been recently released from prison, shot too much deadly poison into his veins and died of an overdose in a Toronto hotel room.

Wracked by the tragic and wasteful deaths of two of her four sons, Lynne Chuvalo, who had been in her husband's corner for 33 years, couldn't fight any longer and committed suicide only days later by ingesting a bottle of pills.

Tragedy struck with a sickening suddenness again this past August, when Chuvalo's 35-year-old son, Steven, died of

(Continued on page 75)

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PRESENTS

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AND

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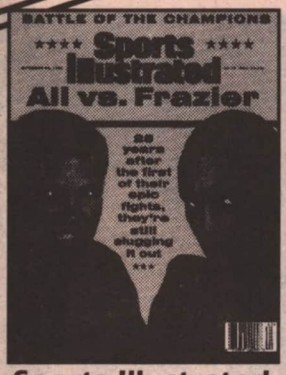

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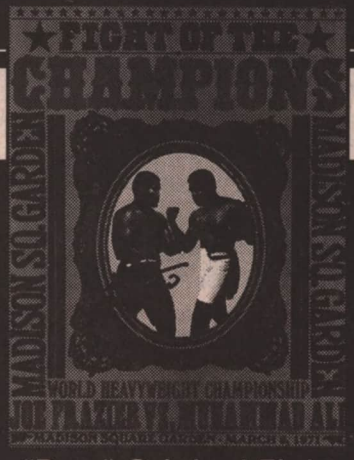

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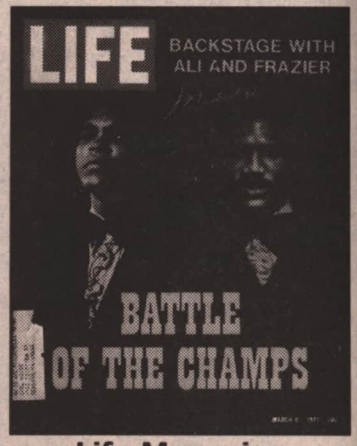

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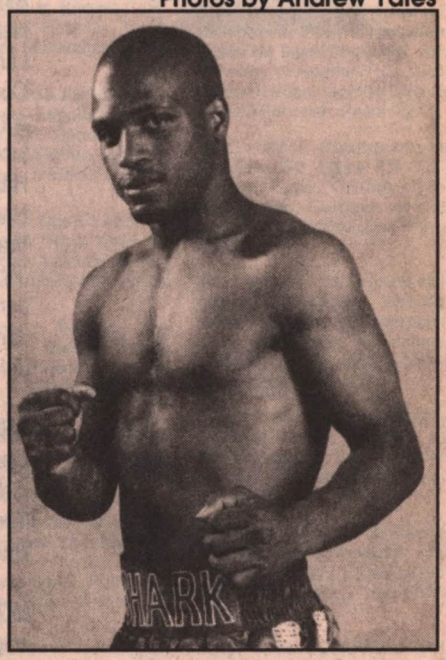
NEW FACES

MARK LEWIS

Junior Welterweight

By Ivan G. Goldman

Photos by Andrew Yates



In 1992, while junior welterweight Mark Lewis was working hard to make the U.S. Olympic team, his daughter, Jesstina, was born. Because finances were tight, Lewis' wife, Jessica, took just a few months off before returning to her job. That left the fighter to babysit during the day—when he was supposed to be in the gym. Mark Lewis, new father, neglected neither his training nor his daughter. Necessity showed the way.

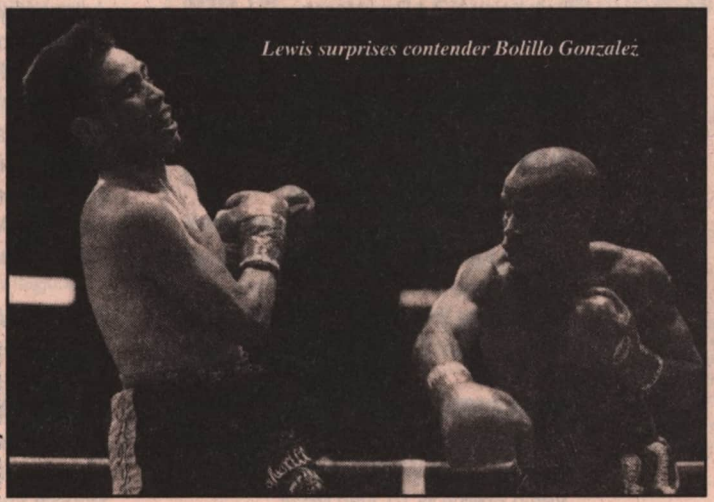
"What I used to do was go down to the gym with Jesstina," Lewis recalls. "I would take along her bottles, diapers, everything. Some of the moms of the other boxers used to help me out. It worked out fine."

Lewis, a 1990 National Golden Gloves champion then living in Sacramento, won the Western Olympic Trials, but ultimately lost his bid for a spot on the team that went to Barcelona. So that November, he turned pro. He's since compiled a record of 15-2 (12). By all accounts, both losses were close decisions that could have gone either way—a six-rounder to Joel Garcia in 1994 (split decision) and a 10-rounder to Jaime Ocegueda in September 1996 (majority decision).

As for little Jesstina, now four, she soaked up so much gym time with her formula, she got hooked before she could walk or talk. A dedicated fan, she has yet to miss one of her father's pro fights.

Daddy Lewis' most important contest by far was his October main event at the Great Western Forum, a match with the feared Mexican Bolillo Gonzalez, who was 45-2-1.

(Continued on page 78)



Lewis surprises contender Bolillo Gonzalez

Photo by Brent Cook

PRO RECORD

1992		
Nov. 25	Ruben Ceja, Sacramento	KO 2
1993		
Jan. 7	Lee Tonks, Sacramento	W 4
March 25	Aldo Diaz, Sacramento	KO 2
April 17	Joe Encinas, Sacramento	KO 2
May 17	Glenn Hudson, Sacramento	KO 1
Aug. 27	Rodney Capps, Sacramento	KO 2
1994		
Oct. 21	Santiago Franco, Palm Springs, CA	W 6
Dec. 17	Joel Garcia, Palm Springs	L 6
1995		
June 21	Jacinto Martinez, Woodland Hills, CA	KO 3
July 20	Lorenzo Garcia, Anaheim	KO 5
Oct. 26	Daniel Hernandez, Irvine, CA	KO 6
Nov. 30	Wade Shamp, Irvine	KO 2
1996		
March 28	Mario Morales, Irvine	KO 8
May 16	Hector Pena, Long Beach, CA	KO 6
July 25	Francisco Cuesta, Irvine	KO 6
Sept. 26	Jaime Ocegueda, Irvine	L 10
Oct. 28	Bolillo Gonzalez, Inglewood, CA	Tech. Win 5

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
17	15	2	0	12

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Orlin Norris W 10 Marion Wilson
Zeljko Mavrovic KO 2 Clifton Mitchell
Jeremy Williams KO 1 Wimpy Halstead
Al Cole KO 1 Matt Charleston
Kirk Johnson KO 8 Terry McGroom
Herbie Hide KO 1 Frankie Swindell
Larry Donald W 10 Richard Mason
Courage Tshabalala KO 2 Jessie Henry
John Ruiz KO 3 Nate Fitch
Lionel Butler KO 1 Bomani Parker
Hasim Rahman KO 1 Marcos Gonzalez
Hasim Rahman KO 1 Brian Sargent
Vaughn Bean KO 1 Lou Turchiarelli
John Ruiz KO 3 Yuri Yelistratov
James Warring W 10 Derrick Roddy
Jerry Ballard KO 2 Vincent Boulware
Jeff Wooden W 10 Mark Wills

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Carl Thompson W 8 Jason Nicholson
Chris Okoh W 12 Tosca Petridis
Terry Dunstan KO 3 Sergio Merani
Booker T. Word D 6 Terry Pitts

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Virgil Hill W 12 Henry Maske
(Wins IBF Title; Retains WBA Title)
Roy Jones W 12 Mike McCallum
(Wins Interim WBC Title)
Thomas Hearns KO 5 Karl Willis
Drake Thadzi KO 9 Darrell Flint
Leik Keiski KO 4 Paul Mason
Dirk Wallijn KO 6 Franco Wanyama
Ole Klemetsen KO 1 Jim Matz
Darren Zenner KO 4 Fermin Chirino

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Steve Collins KO 6 Nigel Benn
Henry Wharton KO 5 Rick Thornberry
Joseph Kiwanuka KO 4 Segundo Mercado
Lupe Aquino KO 6 Young Dick Tiger
Eddie White W 12 Dwight Davison
Herol Graham W 8 Terry Ford

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Abdul Ramadan W 10 John David Jackson
Hassine Cherifi W 12 Alexandre Zaitsev
Verno Phillips W 10 Juan Meza
Robert McCracken W 10 Glenn Odem
Eric Holland W 12 Jose Cataneo
Jose Ruvalcaba KO 8 Freeman Barr
Peter Venancio KO 4 Ricky Stackhouse

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Winky Wright W 12 Ensley Bingham
Patrick Charpentier KO 2 Manuel Hernandez
Anthony Stephens KO 3 Ismael Tillis
Rodney Jones KO 11 Shibata Flores
Santos Cardona KO 9 Jesus Arroyo
Ron Weaver KO 7 Frank Gonzalez

WELTERWEIGHTS
Geoff McCreesh KO 2 Dingaan Thobela
Adrian Stone W 10 Otilio Villareal
Freddy Ladd KO 3 Eddie Lawrence
Alessandro Duran W Disq. 5 Gary Murray
Larry Barnes W 8 Gary Carriero
Darren Maciunski W 10 Meldrick Taylor
Leonard Townsend KO 2 Dave Traynor
Mike Griffith W 12 John Bizzarro

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Soren Sondergaard KO 4 Craig Houk
Rafael Ruelas KO 5 Rocky Balboa
Hector Lopez W 12 John Avila
Diobelys Hurtado KO 1 Antonio Rivera
Shea Neary W 12 Darryl Tyson
Jermal Corbin KO 2 Francisco Alvarez
David Diaz W 4 Marcos Rodriguez

LIGHTWEIGHTS
George Scott W 12 Naas Scheepers
Artur Grigorjan W 12 Marty Jakubowski
Marco Rudolph KO 2 Rodney Garnett
Michael Ayers KO 9 Colin Dunne
Alberto Sicurella W 12 Victor Hugo Paz

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Julien Lorcy KO 7 Boris Sinitsin
Harold Warren W 12 John Brown
Chico Castillo KO 4 Jorge Ramirez
Angel Vasquez KO 1 Miguel Arrozal
Rafael Meran-Soler W 10 David Santos
Jacobin Yoma KO 7 Victor Torres
Carlos Gerena KO 2 Angel Aldame
Francisco Arreola W 12 Lalo Montes
Floyd Mayweather Jr. W 4 Reggie Sanders

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Kevin Kelley W 12 Edwin Santana
Naseem Hamed KO 2 Remigio Molina
Derrick Gainer KO 2 Shane Gannon
Ever Beleno KO 3 Eduardo Negrete
November Ntshingila KO 4 Jose Garcia
Moussa Sangare KO 11 Rakhim Mingaleev

Javier Jauregui KO 6 Julio Sanchez
Koji Matsumoto KO 8 Samuel Duran
Willie Jorrin W 10 Jose Manjares
Yuji Watanabe KO 1 Jimmy Cordero
Ric Siadora KO 11 Cedric Mingo
Zahir Raheem KO 4 Cliff Watford

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Junior Jones W Disq. 5 Marco Antonio Barrera
Aristead Clayton KO 3 Ricky Denkins
Angel Chacon KO 1 Eddie Rangel
Jesus Salud W 10 Guty Espadas Jr.
Nestor Garza W 10 Albert Rendon
Wilfredo Vargas KO 1 Angel Rosario
Cassius Baloyi W 12 Frankie Toledo

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Mbulelo Botile W 12 Aristead Clayton *(Retains IBF Title)*
Jorge Eliecer Julio KO 9 Jorge Reyes
Willie Perdomo KO 10 Vince Feeney
Lehlohonolo Ledwaba W 12 Cruz Carbajal
Young Joo Cho W 10 Yong Hoon Lee

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Yokthai Sithoar KO 2 Jack Siahaya *(Retains WBA Title)*
Johnny Tapia W 12 Adonis Cruz
Gerry Penalosa KO 5 Prasob Jai Muang
Samson Dutchboygym KO 4 Sandile Soblana
Hiroki Ioka KO 4 Hiroki Shinozaki
Leon Salazar KO 3 Juan A. Torres
Evangelio Perez KO 7 Benedicto Murillo

FLYWEIGHTS

Jose Bonilla W 12 Saen Sor Pleonchit *(Wins WBA Title)*
Jesper Jensen W 12 Luigi Camputaro
Phichit Sithbangprachan KO 8 Sammy Sordilla
Raul Juarez W 12 Oscar Arciniega
Sompichai Kratinfaeng-gym KO 5 Willy Salazar
Jose Sosa KO 7 Hamilton Rodriguez
Eric Morel KO 1 Joe Salazar

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Phichitnoi C. Siriwat KO 2 Keiji Yamaguchi *(Wins WBA Title)*

STRAWWEIGHTS

Ratanapol Sor Vorapin KO 2 Gustavo Vera *(Retains IBF Title)*
Rocky Lim KO 9 Chul Woo Lee

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

No, we didn't overlook "The Real Deal" last month, when you saw the mug of newly crowned WBC super middleweight champion Robin Reid in this space. It's just that while we included coverage of the Holyfield-Tyson fight in our February issue, our "Fighter Of The Month" page had already gone to press. Lucky break for Reid, wouldn't you say?

Not much needs to be said about Holyfield. If you saw his too-good-to-be-true 11th-round stoppage of the baddest man on the planet, you already know about his performance of a lifetime. And if you haven't seen the fight yet, well, just what kind of boxing fan are you?

Holyfield's triumph of the spirit transcended the moment. It brought a little bit of dignity to the oft-sour Sweet Science, and brought a whole lot of greatness to the winner, who now belongs with the very best of his generation.

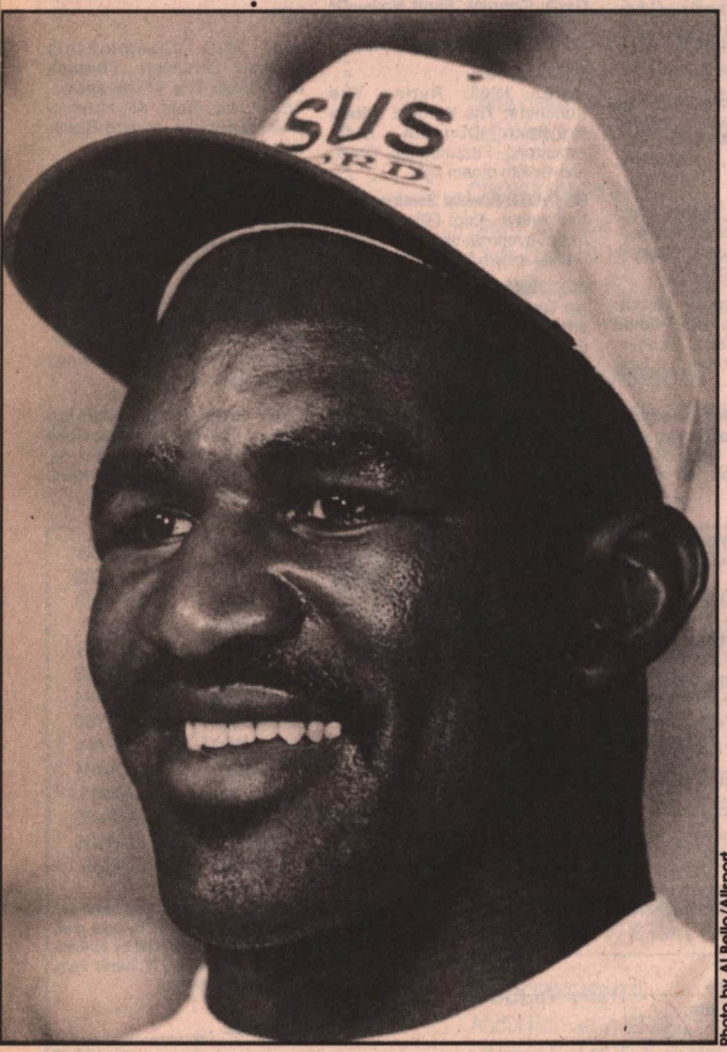

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

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Evander Holyfield

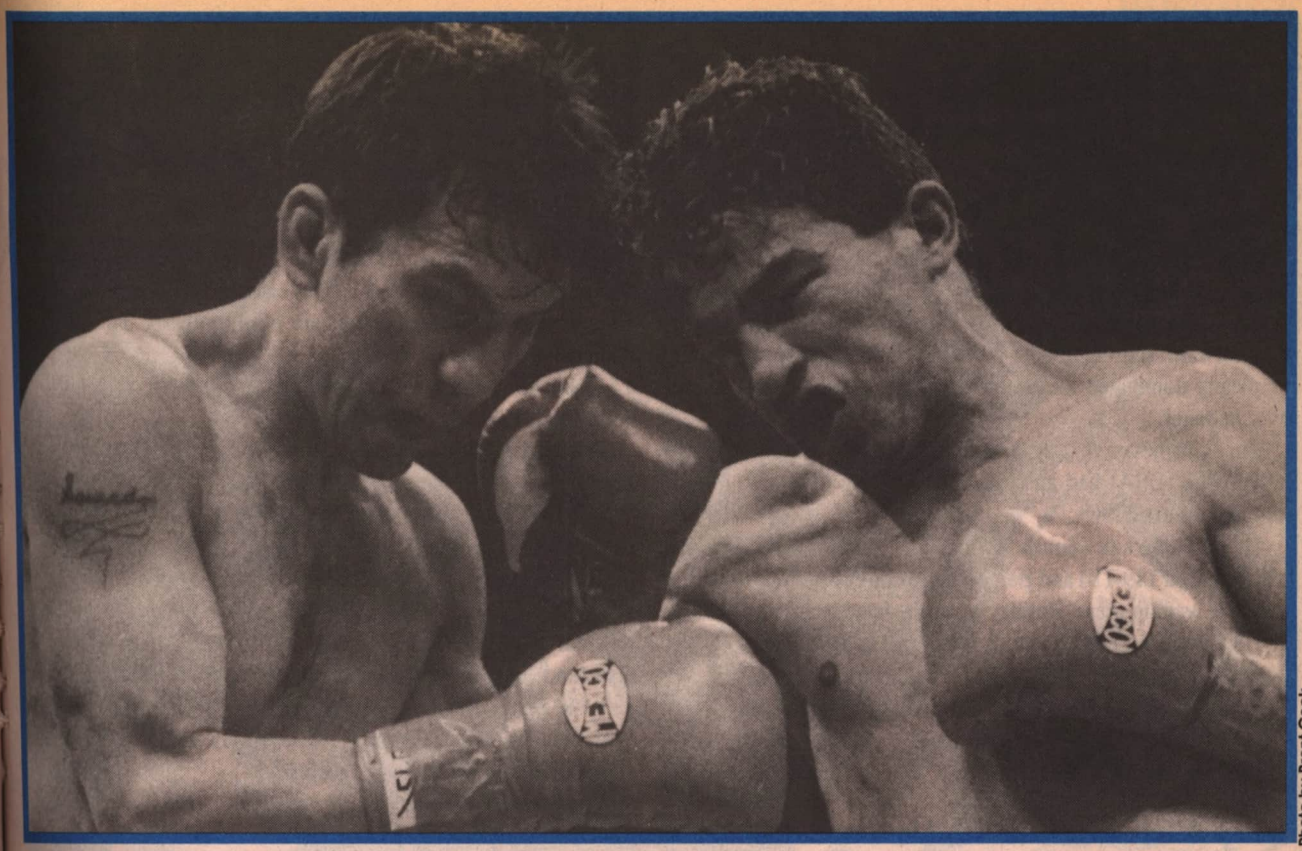


Photo by Brent Cook

Saucedo (left) made it uncomfortable for Romero

Danny Romero KO 12 Polo Saucedo

Indio, California: Some champions can't help themselves, engaging in shootouts and back-alley brawls even when they don't need to. For such fan favorites, Romero is this generation's poster boy.

Defending the IBF junior bantamweight title for the first time, the 22-year-old Romero started quickly and rallied late, halting Saucedo at 1:01 of the final round at Fantasy Springs Casino.

For the first three rounds, Romero, 115, Albuquerque, New Mexico, looked every bit the slugger who had won the title by crushing Harold Grey in two rounds. But the 29-year-old Saucedo, 115, Houston, Texas, who took the bout on three weeks notice, proved determined. When Romero connected with a pair of rights late in the third, the challenger dropped to one knee. Romero hit him again, prompting a one-point penalty, but Saucedo jumped right back up. At the bell, Romero returned to his corner with a cut at the corner of his left eye. The fight had just begun.

Saucedo was particularly aggressive in the middle rounds, his punches bringing swelling to Romero's left eye. The champion began retreating in the sixth, and when referee Robert Byrd (USA) penalized him for punching low in the seventh, an upset seemed a distinct possibility.

It was in the eighth round that Romero decided a patient approach might work best against his plucky foe. "Kid Dynamite" took the fight to ring-center, established some distance, and scored with one-twos. As Saucedo, 12-3-1 (4), slowed, Romero landed with more and more accuracy. Credit the young champion for his adaptability.

In the 11th, Romero, 29-1 (25), bled freely from a cut under his left eye. However, with 18 seconds remaining, he drove home a hook that again sent Saucedo south. Ten seconds into the 12th, a right redeposited the challenger on the canvas. Still, Saucedo fought back, and it wasn't until he went down again, from an overhand right that mostly missed, that Byrd stepped in.

After 11 rounds, Romero led on points. The judges, Fritz Werner, Paul Weitzel, and Lou Moret, are all from the USA.

Wearing sunglasses during the postfight interviews, Romero said, "The guy was strong, very strong. He knew how to use his weight very well. I got to use my boxing skills and my power-punches, which makes me more difficult to fight."

Hopefully, we'll find out just how difficult Romero is in a few months. As we went to press, negotiations for a showdown with unbeaten crosstown rival Johnny Tapia were going well. That fight should be a war—whether Romero wants one or not.

The bout was televised by ESPN.

Promoter: Cedric Kushner Productions

(11-1-96)

Phillip Holiday W 12 Joel Diaz

Johannesburg, South Africa: Making his fourth defense of the IBF lightweight title, local favorite Holiday scored a solid unanimous decision over Diaz before a crowd of 1,500 at the Wembley Indoor Arena.

Looking sluggish, the 25-year-old Holiday, 134¼, Benoni, South Africa, started slowly, but picked up the pace as the fight

progressed. Diaz, 135, Coachella, California, had no answer to the constant pressure applied by the champion throughout the bout.

Holiday cut the 23-year-old challenger above the left eye in the second round, and Diaz' corner was unable to control the bleeding, which hampered him in the later rounds. Even though he was cut, the second was Diaz' best round; he bloodied Holiday's nose and was able to pierce his defense with some good lefts.

That, however, was the only round that Diaz, 17-3 (4), proved effective, as he lacked the power to worry the champion. After the second, Holiday tightened up his defense and began to relentlessly move forward, scoring to both head and body. Holiday, 29-0 (16), completely dominated the rest of the way, and the outcome was never in doubt.

The fight never rose to any particular heights, and referee Rudy Battle (USA) had an easy night, issuing only a couple of warnings for low blows.

Alfred Buqwana (South Africa) and Lulama Mtya (South Africa) scored 119-110 and Barry Yeats (USA) 119-108.

As we went to press, Holiday was scheduled to make a mandatory defense against Ivan Robinson on December 21 in Connecticut.

Promoter: Rodney Berman (Golden Gloves Promotions)
(10-19-96)
Ron Jackson

Henry Akinwande KO 10 Alexandr Zolkin

Las Vegas, Nevada: Before this heavyweight battle on the Holyfield-Tyson undercard at the MGM Grand Garden, it was suggested that instead of trading punches, the 6'6½" Akinwande and the 6'5" Zolkin trade sky hooks. But in dominating a legitimate top-10 contender, Akinwande proved he belongs not only in a boxing ring, but with the best big men in the game.

The 31-year-old Akinwande, 238, Dulwich, England, managed to win without his primary weapon. His endless jab—some report the Briton's reach as a remarkable 86 inches—was mostly ineffective against the southpaw Zolkin, 235, Columbus, Ohio, via Moscow, Russia, and he repeatedly missed with lead right uppercuts. But his right crosses were on target, and he absorbed virtually no punishment in return.

"I'm not disappointed in Alex, because he gave it his best effort," said John Johnson, the loser's manager. "But I'll tell you this: This Akinwande is real good. Real big and real quick. Alex couldn't do anything with him."

Akinwande immediately established his superiority. Five seconds before the bell ending round one, he connected with a right over Zolkin's lazy left. The 32-year-old Russian fell back, but didn't go down. Thinking he had just scored a knockdown, Akinwande cavalierly walked toward a neutral corner, blowing a chance to finish his foe.

The next few rounds were dull, largely because of Zolkin's inability to land with anything at all. He moved forward throughout, but Akinwande, 31-0-1 (19), was the only fighter moving his fists. About a minute into the fourth, Akinwande scored with a right and Zolkin went down, apparently slipping on the canvas' Budweiser logo. Referee Richard Steele (USA) ruled a knockdown.

In the sixth, Zolkin, 24-3 (15), suffered an inch-long cut on his right eyelid that would take 25 stitches to close. Akinwande boxed patiently from that point on. Late in the 10th, Steele called time and escorted Zolkin to the ring apron, where he was examined by Dr. Flip Homansky, who told the referee to call a halt. The time of the stoppage was 2:32 of the 10th.

"The cut extended a little," explained Homansky. "The blood and sweat were getting in his eyes. He was squinting and couldn't see."

After nine rounds, Akinwande led on all three cards, with Duane Ford scoring 89-81, Dave Moretti 88-82, and Mike Glienna 86-84. All three judges are from the USA. THE RING had Akinwande in front by 90-80.

"I hit him with a lot of good shots and he stayed in there," Akinwande said of Zolkin.

Afterward, Akinwande revealed that he had reinjured his left knee in the third round. He had first hurt it in camp three weeks before the bout. "We have been training so hard," he said, "I didn't want to pull out."

It is difficult to predict Akinwande's future. Firstly, given his size and awkwardness, lots of top big men are likely to duck him. Secondly, while he is the champion of the spurious WBO, he is also (and inexplicably) ranked fourth by the WBC. After either Lennox Lewis or Oliver McCall fills the vacant title early next year, and Tyson gets a shot at a title, Akinwande will presumably assume mandatory challenger status.

Promoter: Don King
(11-9-96)
Steve Farhood

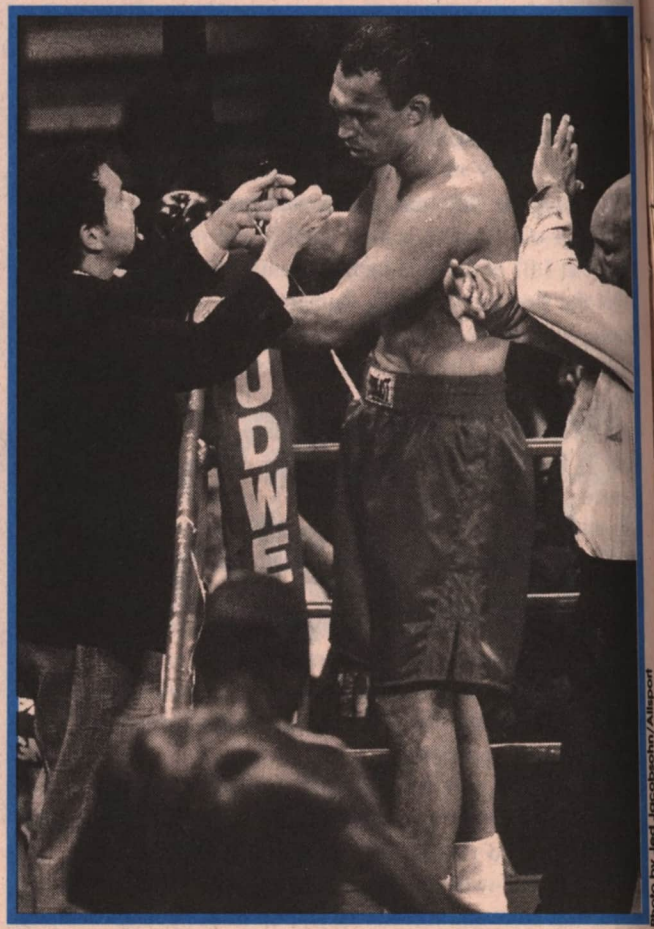


Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

At the finish, the Russian's face was all red

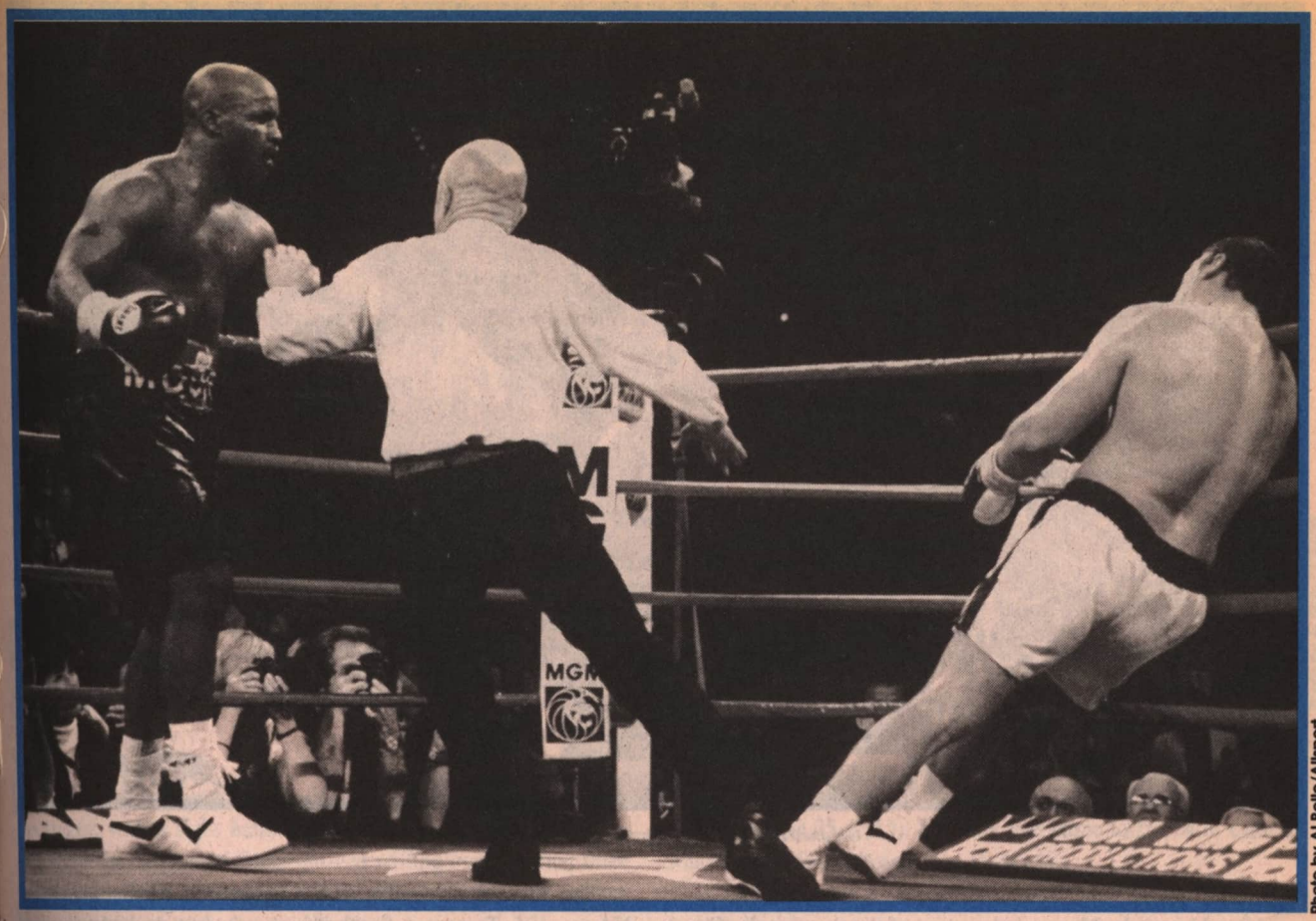


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Moorer conquered the Leaning Tower of Botha

Michael Moorer KO 12 Frans Botha

Las Vegas, Nevada: IBF heavyweight champion Moorer upheld his end of the deal. Who ever imagined Mike Tyson would fail to uphold his?

A victory in his first defense was supposed to guarantee Moorer a unification bout in March with Tyson. But about an hour after Moorer halted a particularly game Botha at the MGM Grand Garden, Tyson was upset by Evander Holyfield. As a result, all unification battles are on hold, and for now, at least, the only superfight that matters is Holyfield-Tyson II.

During the prefight hype, Botha, 28, and his manager, Sterling McPherson, did a lot of trash-talking. "The White Buffalo" had the title, but was stripped after testing positive for steroids following his title-winning effort vs. Axel Schulz. Moorer, 29, was subsequently crowned after also beating Schulz, and Botha referred to him as "a court-appointed champion."

Once hyped as a dangerously violent man, Moorer remained poised while Botha and McPherson did their yapping. In fact, it was the champion's excitable trainer, Teddy Atlas, who failed to hold his emotions in check. Seconds after Moorer and Botha weighed in, Atlas rumbled with fighter-turned-writer Ricardo Salazar, whom he once trained. It was a calm Moorer who helped carry a bloody Atlas from the fray.

Simply put, Moorer, 219, Detroit, Michigan, controlled the bout with his sterling right jab. Botha, 224, Newport Beach, California, via South Africa, backed up from the start. His only hope was his right hand, which he fired from all angles and until the finish. He connected on occasion, but when he missed, he often stumbled or left himself off-balance. Like most Buffalos, he'll never be confused with a ballet dancer.

Moorer's breakthrough round was the third, when he staggered Botha with several jabs and a counter hook. He poured in punches and chased his man across the ring, but failed to land the finisher. Moorer was a one-armed fighter throughout. Had he crossed more often with his left (his weaker hand), he might have shortened the bout.

Botha's best rounds were the fifth and seventh, during which he scored with rights to both the head and body. After the seventh, Atlas, whose psychological ploys during Moorer's 1994 win over Holyfield were the stuff of highlight films, walked across the ring and brought referee Mills Lane (USA) to the corner. "Be quiet," the trainer barked at Moorer. "You don't wanna fight no more? I swear to God, I will have this man stop the fight if you don't wanna fight. Do you hear me? Michael, do you understand that?"

We'll forever wonder what would have happened had Moorer called the bluff.

Whether inspired by Atlas' antics or Botha's fatigue, Moorer, 38-1 (31), didn't lose another round. Botha, 36-1 (21), threatened with his right in the eighth, but ate dozens of jabs in the ninth and 10th. In the 11th, he was spent. Late in the stanza, Moorer landed a hook, then pushed the challenger to the canvas, with Lane ruling a knockdown. A few seconds later, a hook produced knockdown number two just before the bell.

As soon as Moorer connected with his first big punch in the

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Geometrically perfect, Lopez worked all the angles

12th (a left cross), Lane called a halt at the 18-second mark.

After 11 rounds, Moorer led on two of the three cards. Chuck Giampa and Glen Hamada both had the winner in front by 106-100, and Stuart Winston inexplicably saw Botha winning by 104-103. (And that was after scoring the 11th round 10-7 for Moorer.) All three judges are from the USA. THE RING had Moorer ahead by 107-99.

"The way he was talking, it seemed like he would be a tough guy," said Moorer. "He's a heavyweight. All heavyweights are tough."

"Frans left the ring with more credibility than he came in with," said McPherson. The fighter put it best: "I fought my heart out."

Afterward, Moorer, complaining of pain in his jaw, was taken to the hospital. X-rays proved negative.

At the press conference following Holyfield-Tyson, Bill Kozerski, Moorer's co-promoter (with Main Events), reminded Holyfield of his loss to Moorer. As we went to press, however, all indications were that "The Real Deal" would opt for a rematch with Tyson.

Promoter: Don King

(11-9-96)

Steve Farhood

Ricardo Lopez KO 6 Morgan Nduma

Las Vegas, Nevada: Continuing to prove he's one of boxing's best pound-for-pound performers, WBC strawweight champion Lopez retained the title for the 17th time, outclassing the southpaw Nduma on the Holyfield-Tyson undercard at the MGM Grand Garden.

The 30-year-old Lopez, 105, Cuernavaca, Mexico, never let Nduma, 105, Transvaal, South Africa, get untracked, blending jarring combinations and lateral movement to sweep every round before referee Jay Nady (USA) abbreviated the action 55 seconds into the sixth stanza.

There were no knockdowns. By the fourth, Nduma, the WBC International champion, was losing vision in his fast-closing left eye. The 27-year-old challenger's conditioning kept him somewhat competitive through the third, but Lopez displayed superior defense throughout, and the South African never threatened. It was Lopez' seventh straight inside-the-distance win.

Earning $50,000, Lopez advanced to 43-0 (33). Nduma, who made his U.S. debut, dropped to 10-3-1 (8). He pocketed $15,000.

The judges were Carol Castellano, Chuck Williams, and Marty Sammon, all from the USA.

"This fight wasn't as easy as it may have appeared," said Lopez. "Nduma was too stubborn for me to knock down because he came well-prepared. I had a cold for a few weeks before I came to Las Vegas, and it took me a couple of rounds to find my range.

"I'd like to see Don King get me a shot at Michael Carbajal's IBF light flyweight title sometime in 1997."

(11-9-96)

Jack Welsh

Antonio Cermeno KO 5 Eddie Saenz

Las Vegas, Nevada: In the first title fight on the Holyfield-Tyson card at the MGM Grand Garden, WBA junior featherweight champion Cermeno retained the title for the third time, outclassing Saenz after five rounds.

The 27-year-old Cermeno, 121, Caracas, Venezuela, asserted

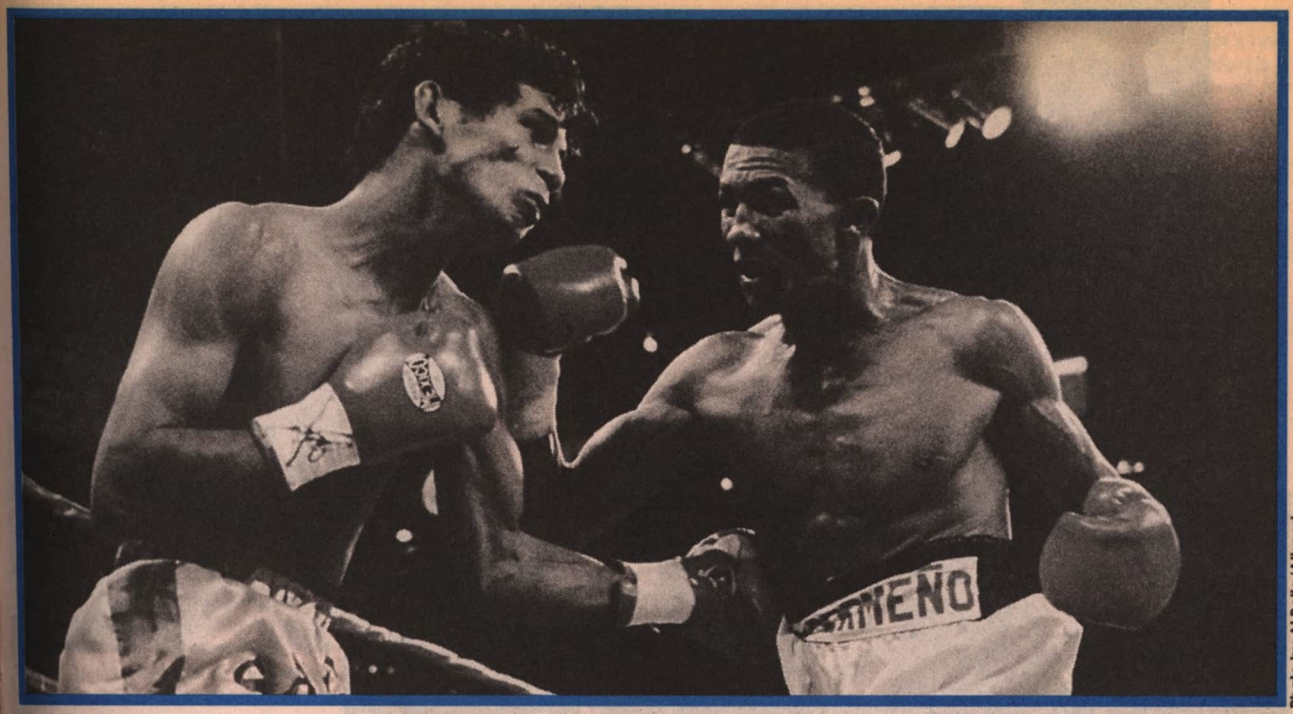


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

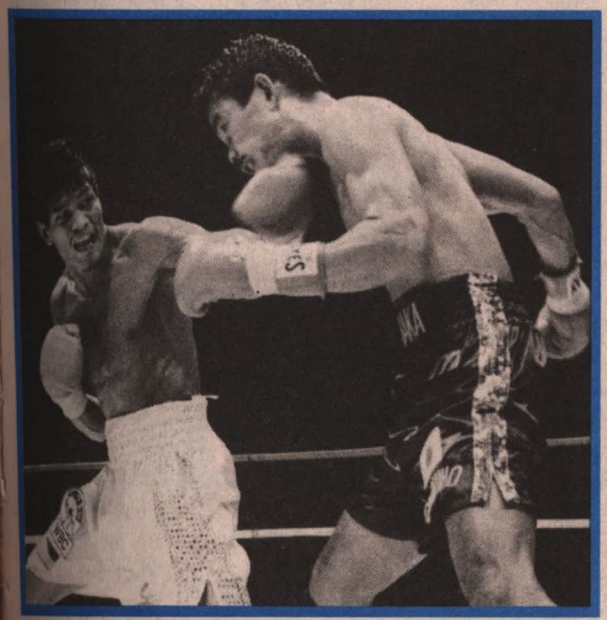
Cermeno was certain against Saenz

himself in the opening round, dropping Saenz, 122, Managua, Nicaragua, with a right hand. He dominated from that point on, and while the outgunned Saenz proved willing over the first three rounds, the quicker champion looked a winner all the way, scoring with combinations to the head and body.

Cermeno began to wear down Saenz in the fourth. The challenger took a beating in the fifth, and after the bell, his trainer, Rogelio Cousins, surrendered to referee Joe Cortez (USA).

The judges were Bill Graham (USA), Rodolfo Hill (Panama), and Alejandro Rochin (USA).

"I've been off for a while [eight months], and I feel it showed," said Cermeno. "I know I was rusty, and it took a little time to get my punching rhythm back."



Espinosa was a happy hooker vs. Hiranaka

Cermeno is 25-1 (15). His only loss came to Jae Won Choi in South Korea. Saenz dropped to 15-4-1 (8).

(11-9-96)

Jack Welsh

Luisito Espinosa KO 8 Nobutoshi Hiranaka

Fukuoka, Japan: Showing superior speed, skill, and power, WBC featherweight champion Espinosa battered the southpaw Hiranaka, stopping him 32 seconds into the eighth round at Marine Messe Fukuoka. It was Espinosa's third defense.

Espinosa, 125½, the Philippines, made good use of his longer reach against the shorter Hiranaka, 125¾, Japan. In the first round, the champion scored with big hooks and crosses, while the challenger responded with straight lefts. It was a bloody beginning; Hiranaka, 28, suffered a cut over his right eye, and Espinosa bled from a gash on his head.

Espinosa, 29, dominated from the second round on, landing powerpunches seemingly at will. At the same time, he proved elusive. After a few rounds, the swelling around the challenger's right eye became grotesque. Espinosa punched freely in the seventh, prompting referee Guadalupe Garcia (Mexico) to wisely call a halt in the eighth. After seven rounds, all three judges, Americans Terry Smith, Chuck Hassett, and Rudy Ortega, had Espinosa in front by 70-63.

Espinosa is 40-7 (21) and Hiranaka 16-2 (10).

Hiranaka is the younger brother of former WBA junior welterweight champion Akinobu Hiranaka.

Espinosa hopes to soon jump to junior lightweight in hopes of winning a world title at a third weight. He formerly reigned as WBA bantamweight ruler.

Promoters: Teiken Promotions, Chikuho Promotions

(11-2-96) ■

CAMERA CLICKS

Photo by Joy Bailey

Postfight shades can help only so much. Meeting the press after his gallant stand vs. Julio Cesar Chavez, Joey Gamache was still leaking.

Photo by Mike Neporadny

Among those honored at the World Boxing Hall of Fame's annual banquet in Los Angeles was former bantamweight champion Carlos Zarate, flanked by Charley Casas (left) and Dub Harris.

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Roy Jones is looking for competition, and unbeaten New York City middleweight Lonnie Bradley says he's willing to accept the challenge. Will we see Jones-Bradley in 1997? The bout would be a natural for Madison Square Garden.

Photo by Joy Losh

*In Las Vegas, you can never be sure what's real. After Christy Martin's first-round kayo on the Holyfield-Tyson undercard, she was congratulated by Roseanne (that's really her) and Elvis. (No, that's not really him. The **real** Elvis had left the building. This is Christy's bodyguard.)*

Photo courtesy of All-Star Cafe

Whether you like it or not, Hector Camacho and Sugar Ray Leonard are likely to square off this year. Leonard, 40, hasn't fought since losing to Terry Norris in 1991.

Don't let that ESPN commercial—or this photo—fool you; Charley Steiner and Christy Martin aren't really in love.

Photo by Joy Losh

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Judging by the publicity she has garnered, you might think Christy Martin was the first female boxer. Hardly so. The woman pioneers of the Sweet Science included '70s troopers (from left) Tiger Trimiar, Jackie Tonawanda, and Cat Davis, who are proudly showing off their boxing licenses.

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

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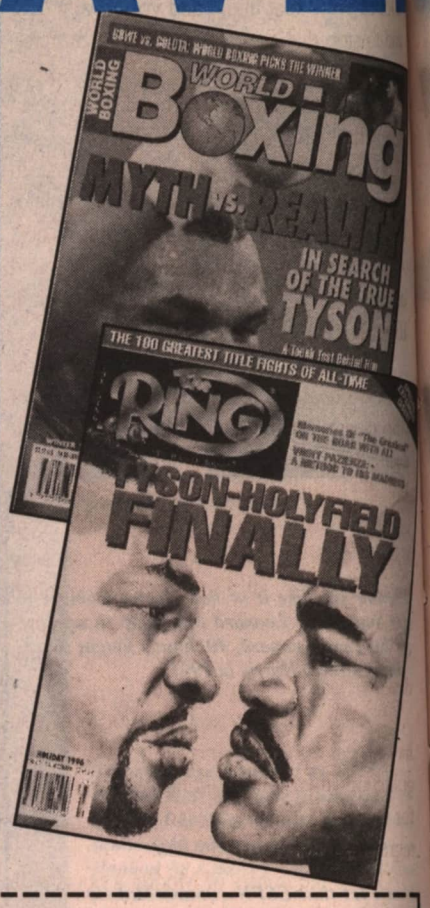

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Moorer & Atlas

(Continued from page 21)

"I said to Michael, 'You were brilliant in a lot of ways that night, and you were proud, and to stop that process from being completed when you were so close, just because you got caught a punch, would be an injustice to yourself,'" Atlas said.

Having sufficiently healed mentally from the Foreman debacle, Moorer cleared a major emotional hurdle this past June, when he beat Axel Schulz in Germany via split 12-round decision. The victory gave him the vacant IBF title.

In that bout, Moorer, as is his wont, fought just hard enough to win against an opponent who clearly lacked his skill level. As he had deemed necessary in Moorer's fight against Holyfield, Atlas felt compelled to impart his brand of psychology to stimulate his reticent fighter. Only this time, Atlas' methodology was not the fervent, impassioned, controlled rage that was so spellbinding in Moorer's previous title-winning effort, but a more subdued, yet equally effective, plea.

"I told him, 'I care about you, but you have to show you care about yourself by going out there and fighting with passion so for the rest of your life you don't have to regret you didn't,'" said Atlas.

One of the ironies of Moorer's bouts with passivity is that he created not only more difficult fights for himself, but more dangerous situations as well. It is as if his doubts about his ability force him to constantly prove his mettle and courage to himself. It certainly is frustrating to Atlas, yet it serves to convince him that Moorer has more resolve than the other heavyweights. "Michael is tougher than all of the other guys because he doesn't go in there with the same assertive confidence that some of them do," said the trainer. "So he gets tested more, physically, by allowing the fight to become tougher, and he requires more fortitude to overcome the situations."

Moorer, on the other hand, sees his restrained style as a consequence of his growth as a fighter. "I'm not going to say that I fight cautiously because the guys are bigger," said the 29-year-old champion. "I'm just more at ease with myself, and I'm a better boxer than I was [as a light heavyweight]."

Moorer, 38-1 (31), does possess underrated boxing skills. Because he moved up to the heavyweight division with such a fearsome reputation, the nuances of his southpaw style and overall technique have been overlooked. Instead, critics have focused on his ability to punch and take a punch. He is, after all, 1-0 against the man who just thrashed the so-called Baddest Man on the Planet. Although Holyfield's destruction of "Iron Mike" squashed a planned March Tyson-Moorer unification megabout, the IBF titlist remains firmly in the big-fight heavyweight picture.

Indeed, Holyfield lists Moorer second, behind Tyson, on his list of preferred opponents. "Holyfield hasn't beaten me," said Moorer. "[In fact] I'm the *only* guy he hasn't beaten. That might motivate him to fight me."

And if Holyfield-Tyson II doesn't take place until June, Moorer has been mentioned as an opponent for Tyson in March. The thought of Atlas sending his heavyweight champion against Tyson, whom he trained when Tyson was a teenager, would make for not only an intriguing matchup, but terrific theater as well.

As the Moorer braintrust ponders his future, Atlas and his fighter prepare for their next camp, and probably the next showdown in their unique alliance. For it's at the start of training camp that the champion tests Atlas the most. At that time, two months before a bout, Moorer has difficulty getting into combat mode and performing all the attendant rituals needed to be successful.

"Michael gets a very ornery attitude," said Atlas. "He rebels because he's not mentally ready to deal with what he has to face in order to get ready for a fight. I have to make him face these things and do them. It's his way of testing me to make sure I'll be as strong as I'm demanding him to be."

They may fuss and fight and challenge one another, but each has come to understand what the other brings to the relationship. In Moorer, Atlas sees a talented and resolute fighter. In Atlas, Moorer acknowledges a trainer committed to his very soul to making the fighter the best he can be. From their many tribulations the two have forged a mutual respect and developed a genuine affection for each other.

"I care about Michael as much as any person in my life," said Atlas. "He's done things that have impacted my life because of his sacrifice. We have a partnership where there's good and bad in it, but in the end I find him to be one of the most honest and unegotistical

(Continued on page 71)

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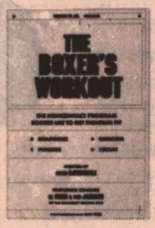

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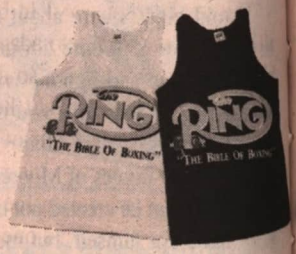

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4164/12-96

Moorer & Atlas

(Continued from page 69)

people I know."

"Teddy's just a solid person," echoed Moorer. "He talks to me openly and honestly, and I know he's there for me and has my best interests at heart."

In the ring after the Botha fight, Atlas said to Moorer, "Please, I can't go through this too much more." To which Moorer smiled and replied simply, "Okay."

Their journey together may not always be smooth, but it will always be fun to watch. ■

Eric Singer is a freelance writer based in Holbrook, New York.

Mike Tyson

(Continued from page 26)

Holyfield got right to the gist of Tyson's failure as a fighter when he observed, "He don't know how to fight going back. And when you do to him what he does to everybody else, he doesn't like it. Pressure? The man just can't handle it."

The secret to survival in boxing, as in all of life, is the ability to adapt. In most of his bouts, Tyson has been so dominant, his adversaries so cowed, that he's run over them with nary a thought of varying his modus operandi. But on the rare occasion he's been confronted by a foe who refuses to be intimidated, Tyson's one-dimensional style became a fatal flaw.

Bright, an easy target and one of the media's favorite whipping boys, was candid enough to admit that there were factors other than headbutts involved in his man's downfall. He pointed to the time Tyson spent in an Albany, New York, courthouse in late-September, defending himself against Rooney's breach of contract suit. According to Bright, Tyson trained only 4½ weeks for Holyfield, when 10 weeks were needed to prepare properly. Whose fault was that? Certainly not Holyfield's.

It's all so obvious in retrospect. Don King, aided and abetted by Tyson's co-managers, John Horne and Rory Holloway, contributed to Tyson's defeat by matching him against a bunch of softies following the fighter's release from prison in March '95. How can less than eight rounds of boxing against such non-threatening entities as Peter McNeeley, Buster Mathis Jr., Frank Bruno, and Bruce Seldon possibly prepare Tyson for a fight against an uncompromising warrior of Holyfield's ilk? Again, Bright turned to the teachings of D'Amato for his answer.

"I believe, as Cus believed, that you can obtain that state of mind without having to be involved in tough, grueling, bloody matches," he said. "What Cus taught us was that you have to understand your own mind, your own feelings. That's really where your strength comes from, not really exercising them, but understanding them."

Sounds good in theory, but it obviously didn't work in the ring against Holyfield. Maybe if D'Amato were alive things would be different, but he's not. And with all due respect, it's time for Tyson to move on. The foundation D'Amato laid has been eroded by neglect and the passing of time, and needs to be reinforced with fresh ideas.

That doesn't necessarily mean Bright and the rest of the current corner crew, including assistant trainers Stacey McKinley and Dave Jacobs, have to go. The main man remains the same regardless of who's carrying the bucket. (One does have to wonder, however, whether Tyson really needs the mindless ranting of head cheerleader Crocodile to pump him up.)

The impetus for change has to come from Tyson himself. And that's as it should be. After all, he's the one who hired everybody else. He's the one who agreed to King's itinerary of fights. He's the one who's allowed his skills to stagnate. And he's the one who didn't give himself enough time to prepare for the first real fight he's had since getting out of jail.

While confronting the truth about his defeat is only the first step on Tyson's road to redemption, it's going to be the toughest. If he can find the courage to change, nothing is impossible. But if he can't, his ultimate resting place in the pantheon of heavyweight champions will be among the might-have-beens. ■

Kostya Tszyu

(Continued from page 51)

The Las Vegas oddsmakers made Tszyu a 2-1 favorite, and he proved them right almost as soon as he leaped over the top strand of the ropes. In the first, he whipped home a right hand that put Rodriguez on the canvas as if he had been hit by a steel-coated boomerang. The champion was down four more times before referee Richard Steele called a halt in the sixth round.

On his return from America, Tszyu announced he was quitting the Mordey promotional banner to accept lucrative contracts from Sky Channel and Optus Vision, a move which led to a lawsuit that is still pending. Since then, he has been promoted and managed by his friend Vlad Wharton, a fellow Russian emigre.

Although Tszyu is strong and throws quick combinations with tremendous accuracy and timing, many American fight-trade observers claim he holds his hands too low and is too mechanical. However, since a lackluster points victory over veteran Roger Mayweather, who clung like a limpet for the entire 12 rounds, Tszyu's skills have blossomed.

Firstly, he proved he was more than just a headhunter by disposing of Corey Johnson with some of the most brutal bodypunching seen in Sydney in years. In September, he defeated Bergman, 28-0 going in, with an unexpected twist. Looking at the tapes, the challenger's camp saw a champion who carried his guard so low, he looked horribly vulnerable to a sniper. Tszyu fooled them by producing new defensive qualities in the opening rounds that threw his rival totally out of focus. When his brow was gashed by a headbutt in the sixth, Tszyu swept into action and knocked Bergman into pixieland with a tremendous right.

Away from the ring, there is no vain-glorious chest-beating from Tszyu, no bimbos on the arm, no flashy car (he drives a black Lexus with a TSZYU license plate), and no trips to seedy night spots. He says simply, "I am professional."

When asked what lies behind the mask of Kostya Tszyu, robo-boxer, he replies, "It's very hard to explain. I look into the eyes. If there is fear or doubt, I see it in an instant. I am not programmed like a computer, because every boxer is different. I look at different muscles and movements. Different things."

When he was asked after one of his fights to nominate the boxers to watch in 1996, Hector Camacho told millions of TV viewers, "Me, Mike Tyson, and that Russian guy with a pigtail."

Seems "The Macho Man" made his prediction a year too early. ■

Terry Smith is a boxing writer for the Daily Telegraph in Sydney, Australia.

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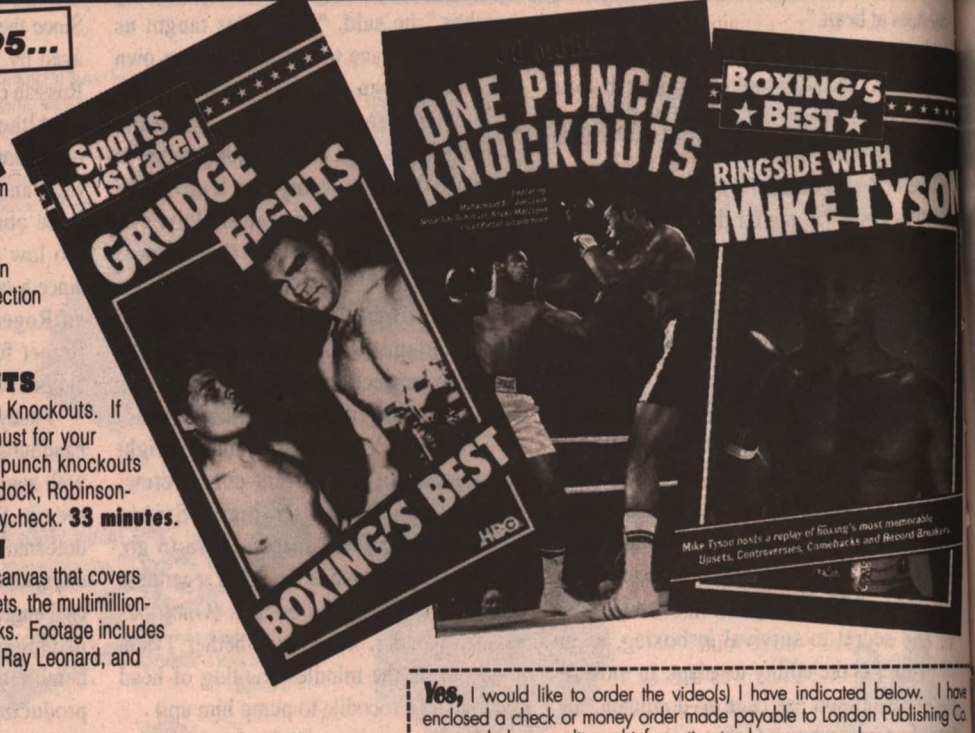

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Merqui Sosa

(Continued from page 53)

"That fight was crazy. I was training in the Top Rank Gym in Las Vegas, and Panama Lewis was my trainer. Then Panama left and went with Don King. He told me, 'Stay here because now for me to train you, you have to be a Don King fighter.' So Eddie Mustafa Muhammad became my trainer. Three days before the fight he leaves because he has another fighter who has a fight the night before in Atlantic City. Now I'm all alone.

"I get into the ring for the fight, and in the first round I get thumbed in the right eye. And I see two guys fighting with me. Then I look into the lights and I see three guys. It was an ugly fight. The referee took three points away from me. I couldn't see very well, and I couldn't control myself. I hit him low and all that, but it was because of my eye.

"In the 12th round, he pushed me into a corner. I got really mad and dropped my hands. He hit me—*poom, poom, poom, poom*—and the referee jumped in and stopped the fight. I said to the ref, 'You're the one who knocked me out.'

"But Frankie Liles was a good fighter. He's a southpaw and has very good speed. I'd like a rematch."

•Sosa finally secured the opportunity to challenge for a world title in his 27th fight. The bout took place in December 1993, in Mexico City, on the Julio Cesar Chavez-Andy Holligan card. The 30-year-old **Michael Nunn,** 41-1, was making his fourth defense of the WBA super middleweight title he had won from Victor Cordoba in 1992. Nunn had a terrible time making the 168-pound limit, and the fight was nearly canceled when he was seven pounds over at the weigh-in. Nonetheless, he made weight the next morning and went on to capture a unanimous decision. Scores: 116-113 (twice) and 116-112. Sosa was penalized a point in round 10 for hitting after the bell.

"For that fight I went out to train with Joe Goossen in Los Angeles because he used to train Nunn. While I was there, I sparred with Frankie Liles because he was a southpaw. I had trouble getting a visa to go to Mexico, so in the middle of training, I had to come back to New York. Then I went to Mexico. On the day of the weigh-in, Nunn weighed 176½ pounds. He said he couldn't make the weight and that he didn't want to go through with the fight. But they let him weigh in the next morning, and they said he made the weight. But nobody could lose that weight overnight. He looked so big. He was fat."

(Editor's note: Rosenthal was present at the second weigh-in and confirmed that Nunn did make the weight at 7:30 the morning of the fight.)

"He looked like he was about to quit after the eighth round. He didn't do anything that impressed me. He threw a lot of punches, but he didn't hit me with a lot of punches. He wasn't strong. He didn't want to fight me, I made the fight. I had to chase him. I thought I won."

•Sosa twice fought former IBF light heavyweight champion **Prince Charles Williams** in 1995. Both bouts were contested for the vacant NABF light heavyweight title. The first contest, held in Atlantic City in January, was stopped after the seventh round, when ringside physician Frank B. Doggett ruled that both men had absorbed too much punishment. The fight, a non-stop punchathon, was declared a technical draw. Sosa's right eye was swollen and reduced to a slit, and Williams had absorbed tremendous punishment. There was swelling around both his eyes, and he was severely cut over his left eye. On the cards, Sosa was ahead by scores of 69-63 and 68-64 (twice).

Rosenthal protested the decision and appealed to New Jersey boxing commissioner Larry Hazzard. "I will never question a doctor for stopping a fight," said the manager. "That's not for me to determine. I felt a ruling should have been made to go to the scorecards. But New Jersey did not have a rule for that particular situation. I felt Hazzard made up the rule on the spot."

In the June rematch, Sosa halted the 33-year-old Williams, 36-7-3, in the 10th round. Like the first fight, it was a war, and another candidate for Fight of the Year.

"I gained a lot of experience in those fights. I don't like to box, I like to fight, and he came to fight me. He took the fight on the inside, but he was not better than me on the inside. He couldn't hurt me. I felt I won all the rounds. When they stopped the fight, I thought I won. Everyone thought I won. Then they called it a draw. I said, 'Look what happened to George Foreman in his fight with Alex Stewart, and they didn't stop him, why me?' I was winning, and they should have made me the winner, or at least let us finish the fight.

"Williams said he didn't train right for the first fight, and that he was going to come in better shape for the rematch. He was in good shape, but so was I. I went to training camp for that fight. He said he was going to box me in the second fight. But he didn't. I knew the way he fought and I was confident. I was comfortable fighting him. I knew if I was in shape, I'd win the fight. And I did."

•Sosa met IBF super middleweight champion **Roy Jones** in a non-title bout at Madison Square Garden in January 1996. Both fighters weighed 171. A lead right dropped Sosa early in round two, and a followup barrage left him pinned on the ropes with his hands up. Although many of Jones' blows missed their mark, referee Ken Zimmer stopped the contest with Sosa still standing. The ending, judged premature by many, touched off a controversy, with an enraged Sosa shoving the referee.

"It took me two months to get over that fight. They didn't let me fight. They didn't let me prove myself. The referee took away my opportunity. I had a lot of people coming to that fight to see me, and I felt like I was good for nothing. I think Jones would have had trouble if the fight went on because he let me get close to him.

"He is fast and he's strong and he's very intelligent. He saw me drop my hands for a second and he took advantage of that. He dropped me, but he didn't hit me hard enough to knock me out.

"In the second round, he was throwing a lot of little punches. Flurries. He wasn't going to drop me anymore. I was trying to maintain my balance; that's why I wasn't throwing any punches back. But that's why the referee stopped it. When I pushed the referee, I said, 'Why are you doing this? I know what I'm doing.'"

The Best of the Best

"I think Roy Jones is a very good fighter. I felt his punches, I felt his speed. You can't take anything away from him. But I cannot say he's the best I fought, because they didn't give me a chance to fight him. I have to say Prince Charles Williams is the best I fought. He knew how to box, he knew how to fight inside. He was very tough. He never gave up. He was also very smart. I learned a lot from fighting him. Those two fights made me a better fighter." ■

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George Chuvalo

(Continued from page 55)

a heroin overdose, also after having been released from prison for robbery. Six weeks before Steven's death, Chuvalo had buried his father, Stephen, 92.

Boom! Boom! Boom! The force of tragedy never seems to let up on the Chuvalo family. The terrible tally: three sons lost to heroin, a wife lost to heartbreak, and a father lost to old age, all in 11 short years. Daughter Vanessa, 28, and eldest son Mitchell, 37, are Chuvalo's only surviving children.

Enduring this barrage of misery would be enough to finish off the toughest of men, but Chuvalo pushes on, positive in outlook, trying to keep the remaining pieces of his fractured family together.

While tragedy has stolen four members of his clan, he has happily added to his brood. In January '95, he married his second wife, Joanne O'Hara, who had lost a child of her own. Crib death claimed her infant daughter in December 1990. She knows all about heartbreak, too.

Along with Joanne, 40, came her two children, Jesse, 14, and Ruby-Jean, 7. With them, Chuvalo gets a chance to do it all over again. Add his two grandchildren, Jesse and Rachel (his late son Steven's kids), to the mix and he is raising a new extended family.

At 59, an age when most are contemplating retirement after a life a great deal less stressful than his, Chuvalo is in a way starting again, and he's going to need a ton of strength and durability to get there. The only question: Where will he find it? Answer: He's already got it in buckets.

To discover how he acquired it, the clock has to be turned back some 70 years ago, when his Croatian father emigrated to Canada. Just seven months into his marriage, Stephen Chuvalo came to Canada alone in 1926. Working an assortment of labor-intensive odd jobs, he couldn't afford to bring his wife Kata over until 1936. Ten years he had to wait for his bride! The Chuvalos built character the hard way—with honesty, and during the Depression.

***

Born on September 12, 1937, George Louis Chuvalo was raised in the Junction, a working-class, blue-collar neighborhood in the west end of Toronto. His father worked on the killing floor at Canada Packers, a slaughterhouse where he skinned cattle. It was grinding, physical work, and it produced a tough, stoic man.

"My father was very strict; he used the leather belt on me if I got in trouble," Chuvalo says of his childhood. "I used to cry like hell, but my younger sister Zora didn't. It was a different time; times were tough. Dad demanded certain things, standards. But he cared for us in his quiet, disciplined way."

Tough but fair. Stephen Chuvalo instilled in his son an indomitable work ethic.

"That stockyard mentality helped mold George into the fighter he was and the man he is today," says John Short, an Edmonton-based sports columnist who grew up in the Junction and traveled in the same circles as Chuvalo during their teenage years. "George is a product of his mother and father, who lived a tough life."

Kata Chuvalo, whom George refers to as "the soft part of a hard life," plucked chickens for 20 years for Royce-Dupont Poultry, a company owned by Isaac Ungerman, father of Irv Ungerman, who would become Chuvalo's manager in 1964.

"My mother loved us unconditionally," says Chuvalo. "Mom was soft, Dad was hard. We didn't have much money, but it didn't matter. We had a decent life."

Chuvalo took up fighting at age 10. An accomplished athlete, he tried ice hockey (like all Canadian kids) and football, but boxing stuck to him like perspiration after a tough workout.

By 17, he was the national amateur champion, and at the Jack Dempsey Novice tournament, he knocked out four opponents in less than 13 minutes. He made the 1956 Canadian Olympic team, but didn't attend. That was a big mistake. Another one was rushing into the pro ranks. He went into eight- and 10-round fights from the start. No prelims. Chuvalo was scrapping with veterans who had fought 30, 40 times. As a result, he learned pretty fast.

Like his mother and father, he didn't complain. He just fought on, always the quiet warrior.

"George was a tough kid around the neighborhood," recalls Short. "When he hit it big as a fighter, he took his toughness and pride with him, and they proved to be his best allies."

Toughness, pride, and durability are life-preserving assets. Chuvalo couldn't have come this far without them, but they were tempered by a tenderness and sense of humor acquired from Kata. As a father himself, Chuvalo has taken the best of his parents and tried to find a balance with his family. He is the first to admit, however, that his family life hasn't always been idyllic.

"I wasn't a perfect father or husband—I've never met one," he says. "They don't make them that way, never have."

Guilt, he'll admit, attacks him like a deadly virus.

"There are always things you feel guilty about," he says. "Losing a child is terrible. When I lost Lynne, my best friend left. Losing three sons and a wife is like having a wound that never heals. You take medication, keep it clean, free of infection, but it never gets better, it's always there. Little everyday things, like watching TV, reading a book, speaking to an old friend, remind me of what I've lost. I'm constantly reminded. I can't help it."

Amidst all this grief, a tough, almost unbearable question is asked: Did something go wrong in the Chuvalo family that caused three sons to become slaves to heroin and their mother to give up?

"My rational mind has no reason to feel guilty," says Chuvalo, his voice cracking ever so slightly. "But in my heart I feel guilty. We could've been more affluent, we could've done this, done that, but it just happened."

Jesse Myles, who pulled George Lee and Steven into the drug world, destroyed a kneecap in a motorcycle accident as a teenager. Demerol was the prescribed pain-killer for a short while. Then it was gone, but the pain wasn't. Jesse Myles turned to readily available street heroin to erase the pain and got hooked. George Lee and Steven followed his deadly trail.

Jesse Myles told his father he was going to take his own life two weeks before he did. Dad didn't believe him. That second-guessing, that sheer burden of guilt, will weigh heavily on Chuvalo for the rest of his life.

"I'm not solely guilty for what happened, and I've learned to live with it," Chuvalo says. "But it's heartbreaking."

Upon hearing that, today's talk show psychologists might suggest the parents were to blame for what happened.

"I grew up in a loving family," says Mitchell Chuvalo, who lives a quiet life with wife, Ivania, in Toronto. We live a middle-class suburban existence. My father is a lov-

(Continued on page 77)

The RING '60s & '70s ISSUES

When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, The Ring was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, The Ring was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of The Ring were already talking about them. The Ring covered all the boxing events of the 1960s and 1970s as no other magazine could–and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).

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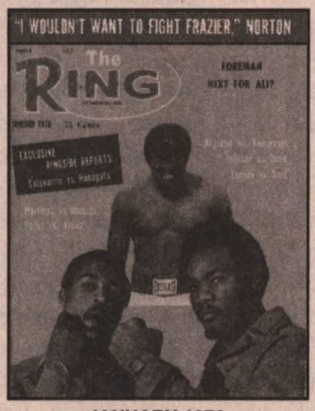

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George Chuvalo

(Continued from page 75)

ing man. We had a normal relationship—it was more like father-brother. I could talk to him about anything. Sure he was strict, but he loved his kids unconditionally."

Yes, he did, said Vanessa, the lone female among the Chuvalo siblings. But from her perspective, life was a little different.

"This is the first interview I've ever done," she says. "I don't like to talk about my family, it's too personal, but I resented my father a bit when I was younger. He didn't know how to relate to girls. My mom and I were close. I was definitely my mother's daughter. I mean, we traveled, had a good life, but it was different for me being the only female in a boxing family."

Watching her dad deal with tragedy has helped Vanessa gain a better understanding of her fighting father.

"My relationship with my dad today is strong," she says. "We're very close, very good friends. He was a good father, a tough man who has never given up. I love him now more than ever. Looking back, it was crazy and we had fun."

Mitchell, a high school teacher and football coach at Western Technical-Commercial School, remembers those good times, too.

"It was a roller coaster at times," he says. "When we fought, it was full-tilt. When we made up, it was full-tilt. But it was exciting. Joe Louis sat at our dinner table. Gordie Howe played with us. A lot of high-powered people were in and out of our lives. We had fantastic times until my brothers got involved with drugs."

Still, Mitchell is perplexed when trying to explain what went awry with his brothers.

"I've been trying to explain it to myself," he says. "It's one of the mysteries of my life. Jesse was depressed. Steven and George Lee were addicts before they got into booze and drugs.

"It's gotta be something wrong genetically. They were wired the wrong way. They were desperate junkies. They would swallow drugs and pass out on the subways. They'd steal, jump on a bus, and pass out on a snow bank with the goods in hand. They weren't hard to find."

Vanessa, who discovered Steven dead in her apartment, feels they succumbed to the pressure of a bad bunch.

"They started hanging out with the wrong crowd," she says. "Their peers chose their path for them—they didn't know where to go."

Understanding what demons haunted Steven, George Lee, and Jesse Myles will always be difficult. But Mitchell and Vanessa, who manages an exclusive restaurant in Toronto's trendy Yorkville section, are successful, well-balanced Chuvalo kids who have survived tragedies and created stable lives for themselves. George and Lynne Chuvalo didn't do a bad job; they did the best they could with what they had. For Mitchell and Vanessa, it was enough.

Looking at Chuvalo today, knowing what he's been through, you have to wonder about his state of mind. Weakened by his incredible losses, does the toughest fighter of his generation have enough strength and resiliency to carry on in this world?

"George is too concerned with everyone else in his family," says Joanne. "He asks me, 'What would happen to the rest of the family?'"

Vanessa, who first tried to dislike Joanne but has come to admire her for what she's done for her father, echoes the same thoughts.

"No way. My dad would never pack it in. He's too tough, too strong. He can't do it; he's not selfish. Family is everything to him."

After Chuvalo retired from boxing, he briefly stayed in the game, training and promoting Canada's former number one-rated heavyweight contender, Razor Ruddock.

Chuvalo soon lost interest. "Boxing just didn't do it for me anymore," he says without regret. "I needed to move on."

To fill the void, Chuvalo tried other endeavors. Real estate deals came and went without much success. TV and movies were next, and not surprisingly, they suited his desire to be in front of an audience again. Bit parts in David Cronenberg's *The Fly* and *Prom Night III* were a gas, but offered no future. More fulfilling and more suited to his liking was the syndicated TV series *Famous Knockouts,* which he produced and co-hosted with longtime boxing buddy Spider Jones from 1985 to '89. It created a forum for two old-school boxers—and a pair of hams—to share their love of the sport with an appreciative audience.

All these post-boxing interludes became secondary in 1985, when heroin cut a deadly swath through the Chuvalo family. What Chuvalo didn't know then, but knows now, is that he was coming out of retirement for one more fight; not for fame or money, but for the future of children—his and any he could get to listen. Fighting the never-ending war against drugs became his calling.

Chuvalo now speaks about the dangers of addiction at high schools, drug rehabilitation centers, and youth shelters across North America.

"I'm addressing the perils of drugs to kids," he says. "It's important to understand that there is nothing romantic about drugs. These are horrible things. There is nothing romantic about being in jail or puking your guts out. There's no fun seeing your son on a slab in a morgue or having your stomach pumped."

Chuvalo's speaking style isn't preachy or fire and brimstone. Rather, it's confessional, in touch with the grim realities, the death grip of addiction.

"Kids I speak to are at the threshold—left, right, which way will they go?" he says. "Kids will come to me and confide in me. They'll be very candid when they normally wouldn't be that way with anyone else. This has become my life mission. It's more gratifying to speak to kids, more fulfilling than boxing ever was, and more therapeutic for me."

Talking to teenagers, staying close to youth, and keeping busy are part of the healing process for Chuvalo. It's when he slows down to take a breath that he's vulnerable. A registered nurse who formerly worked at the Addiction Research Foundation in Toronto, Joanne is Chuvalo's caretaker.

"George is better around people," she says. "He gets lots of support from friends like Spider. George gets weepy by himself, almost panicky when he's alone. These are particularly tough times for my husband.

"We're best friends. I know what's on his mind, and I fix him up when he needs it. George is a giving person and feels good about helping kids. He gets letters from them, they come to our home, they call at all hours of the night, and he never

sends any of them away. He's got the biggest heart in the world, and he feels he's making a difference."

Coming soon will be the George Chuvalo Foundation, which will address the concerns of his life: young people and their welfare. It's another step forward for the fighter and the father.

"My main focus is family," Chuvalo says. "Their love keeps me going. I've got my wife—the most beautiful person in the world—my kids, and my grandchildren.

"I think about the terrible things that have happened and get despondent at times. I get in a funk, but I can't get bitter. I've got my family and they hold me up."

In boxing, the world is watching and you're in the ring alone. Chuvalo is battling again, but this time he's surrounded. And this is one fight the old warrior doesn't plan on losing.

(Editor's note: Young people looking for help or seeking Chuvalo's council can reach him on the Internet at gchuvalo@nobelmed.com.) ■

Warren Tasker is the Canadian correspondent for The Ring.

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New Faces

(Continued from page 57)

Conventional fistic wisdom dictated that the more experienced Gonzalez, who packs sledgehammer power in either fist, was a cinch to destroy the lesser-known Lewis (also known as Mark the Shark). In fact, Gonzalez, who was coming off a controversial draw with fellow contender Giovanni Parisi in Italy, took Lewis as a tuneup. The plan was to make quick work of Lewis, then head back to Italy for a rematch with Parisi.

But as any boxing buff knows, thinking a fight or two ahead can be hazardous to your win-loss column. With Jesstina ringside as always, Lewis blew a hole in the Gonzalez travel plans, scoring a knockdown in the third round en route to a fifth-round technical decision victory. The fight, scheduled for 10, went to the cards when Gonzalez couldn't continue because of a cut suffered from an unintentional butt.

Although one judge somehow scored it a draw, it wasn't anywhere near that close. Lewis beat his opponent to the trigger again and again. Gonzalez' manager, Ricardo Maldonado, was so angered by his fighter's inability to handle Lewis that he angrily stalked out of the Forum after the fight, leaving Bolillo without a ride.

Forum Boxing promotes Gonzalez, not Lewis, but publicist John Beyrooty credited the winner for fighting a smart fight, and also a crowd-pleasing one. "After all," Beyrooty likes to remind everybody, "we *are* the house of upsets."

Says the 27-year-old Lewis, "I was on a mission. I have faith in God and myself, and I knew what I was going to do. Usually I'm kind of nervous about making mistakes and I come out slow. But against Gonzalez, I wasn't afraid of that. I just came out and took care of business.

"My trainer [the respected Jerry Moore] told me, 'This guy's got to throw hooks. So go underneath or throw straight punches.' Those looping punches can hurt you, but if you know what to do, you can come out on top. Gonzalez, though, he's a really good puncher. This guy can throw."

Lewis, who, like his opponent, scaled 143 pounds, served notice in the first round. But trading too readily, he was hammered with a big hook just before the bell.

In the second, the 5'9" Lewis was cagier. He used more lateral movement and caught Gonzalez with enough one-twos to get everyone's attention. Gonzalez, on the other hand, threw mostly looping shots.

In the third, Lewis' sharp jab found even more of a home. At the proper moment, he followed the jab with an overhand right to the head, then a hook to the body, putting Gonzalez on his knees. It was a clean knockdown. After a count of eight, Lewis came in for the finish. But Gonzalez remained dangerous, and he nailed Lewis with a right uppercut.

Lewis' right eye began closing in the fourth, but Gonzalez was tiring fast and throwing wide, desperation punches. Their heads clashed in the fifth, and Gonzalez was ruled unable to continue 1:58 into the round. Under California rules, the fight went to the cards, with the fifth round scored. Referee Jose Cobian penalized Lewis a point for the butt, but the underdog nonetheless captured a majority decision.

An exuberant Moore notes that the 140-pound division is among the most competitive in boxing. "I think Mark can go all the way," he says. "He's dedicated, he had a really good background in the amateurs. And you know what else? He doesn't run around. He's a family man. When this guy walks down the street, he doesn't turn his head at every skirt."

Lewis' adviser and promoter, Patrick Ortiz, adds, "Mark is a very spiritual young man. It makes him a good person to work with. And he just does so many things right. He's some bodypuncher. I think that's what won [the Gonzalez fight] for him, that body attack."

Lewis said he'd like to take Gonzalez' place and fight Parisi. He wouldn't mind fighting on the Italian's turf, either: "Like I said, I'm on a mission."

Because of Lewis' lengthy amateur career—he finished with a record of 120-20—and also because of earlier managerial problems, he has had relatively few pro fights for a 27-year-old. But he now figures he's on track and ready to shoot ahead of the pack.

Lewis and Jessica now have another daughter, Krisstina. They make their home in Mira Loma, California, near Riverside. Meanwhile, number one fan Jesstina has been putting on the gloves herself. "She's a southpaw, so she likes to show me how to beat southpaws," says her admiring father. "She can jab and hook, and I mean she can do it."

Look out, Christy Martin. ■

Ivan G. Goldman is The Ring's correspondent in Southern California.

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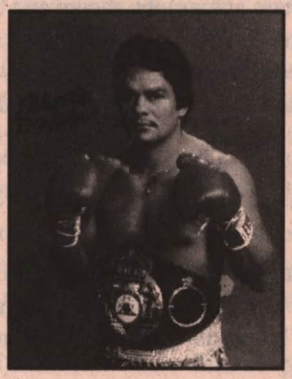

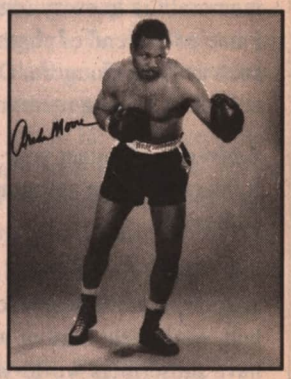

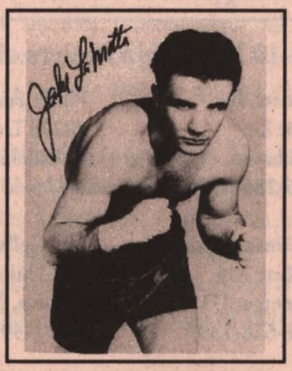

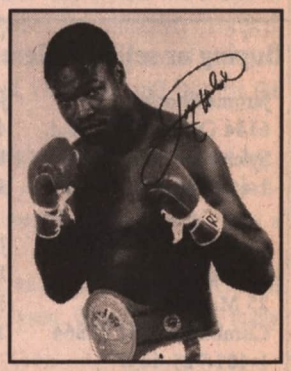

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BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Don Scott

As the sport goes, so goes the hobby of collecting. So it was no surprise that after Evander Holyfield's stunning upset of Mike Tyson, collectors have been scooping up memorabilia from "The Real Deal's" career. If you want it all, get a large scoop.

The '80s and '90s have been rich with memorabilia. Loyal readers of this column will remember that while items such as posters and programs were once produced only for the patrons of a fight, now there's a much larger quantity—all because of the collectors' market. This is also true of baseball caps, T-shirts, jackets, etc. So it follows that one of the chief boxing figures of the era has left quite a lot of memorabilia in his wake.

Let's start from the start. Holyfield's amateur career was capped by his winning a bronze medal at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Programs from both and Box-Offs and the Games themselves can be found. You should know that amateur programs for legends-to-be like Ali, Liston, Marciano, and Louis are highly prized and sell for $200-plus. Holyfield isn't exactly a legend yet, but only time and memories make legends, so who knows?

One item I have that I'm particularly fond of is a 3x5 card I had signed at a Boxing Writers Association of America dinner in New York City. The great '84 Olympians were about to turn pro in a joint debut at Madison Square Garden, and the Duvas wheeled them out for the occasion. (The only one missing was Pernell Whitaker.) I was mingling about when I spied a young man sitting alone in what was apparently a new shirt and suit. I recognized him and sidled up for some light conversation and an autograph. The Real Deal was just young Evander then. He wrote in careful, legible script, "Evander Holyfield, '84 Olympics Bronze Medalist, Best Wishes, John 3:16." He called me sir and was in every way an impressive young man.

A lot has changed since then. Holyfield's signature is now mostly a scrawl. He cites a verse from Phillipians, and has more suits than the Men's Warehouse. But my friends who know him well tell me one thing has definitely not changed: He may be older and wiser, but he's the same young man I met at that dinner.

There are striking posters and programs for all of Holyfield's major fights. The program for the aforementioned debut sells for about $30 (lots were made). I've always thought that item, with all those young fighters who subsequently made their marks (Whitaker, Meldrick Taylor, Mark Breland, Virgil Hill), is underpriced.

There is also an array of Tyson-Holyfield memorabilia. There are hats, jackets, programs, etc. not only for the fight in November, but for the 1991 bout that never happened. The first time around was a case of the market loading up for a blockbuster, and then, when the fight was postponed and ultimately canceled, dealers sinking with inventory. This creates a perplexing problem: If you're seeking out a piece of memorabilia from the November fight, you have to make sure it's not five years old. Only buy stuff that has the fight date on it.

It's very, very difficult to collect Holyfield fight-worn gear. This is the highest level of collecting anyway, with prices high, items difficult to authenticate, and speculators rampant. And Holyfield has made collecting his gloves, trunks, and robes even harder. That's because he saves everything for himself. Only a few items, given to friends or charity, are out, but there's not much.

If you like to collect memorabilia from great rivalries, you should already have amassed the posters and programs from the Holyfield-Bowe trilogy. Now you can start on Holyfield-Tyson. Who knows how many chapters there might be?

***

I get lots of letters and try to answer them all, but I do not work out of the offices of THE RING, so I'd appreciate a self-addressed stamped envelope if your correspondence needs a response. If you would like a sample issue of *Boxing Collectors' News*, send $2 ($3 outside the USA) to BCN, 3316 Luallen Drive, Carrollton, TX 75007. I'm always happy to answer questions about prices or values, but remember, I'm only one opinion. Also, please, no long lists. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of ***Boxing Collectors' News*** *and may be contacted through* THE RING.

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBC ratings were compiled as of December 1996, and the IBF and WBA ratings as of October 1996.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	C	–	–
Mike Tyson (USA)	3	C	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	–	C
Lennox Lewis (GB)	1	7	6
Oliver McCall (USA)	2	1	2
Henry Akinwande (GB)	4	–	–
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	5	9	12
Orlin Norris (USA)	6	4	5
Andrew Golota (POL)	7	8	7
Corrie Sanders (SA)	8	–	3
David Tua (NZ)	9	–	11
Tony Tucker (USA)	10	3	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	2	–
Vaughn Bean (USA)	25	5	4
Bruce Seldon (USA)	–	6	–
Joe Bugner (AUSTRL)	–	10	–
Francois Botha (SA)	–	–	1
Buster Mathis Jr. (USA)	–	–	8
Obed Sullivan (USA)	19	–	9
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	15	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	C	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	C
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	1	1	4
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	4	–
Torsten May (GER)	3	7	7
Robert Daniels (USA)	4	3	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	5	9	9
David Izeqwire (NIG)	6	11	8
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	7	–	3
Chris Okoh (GB)	8	–	10
Carl Thompson (GB)	9	–	–
Yosukezan Nishijima (JAP)	10	–	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	2	–
Brian LaSpada (USA)	26	5	–
Rick Lamontagne (USA)	–	6	–
Saul Montana (DR)	16	8	12
Ken Murphy (USA)	–	10	11
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Arthur Williams (USA)	–	–	5
Uriah Grant (USA)	28	–	6

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	C	–	–
Roy Jones (USA)	IC	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
William Guthrie (USA)	1	2	1
Michael Nunn (USA)	2	4	–
Mike McCallum (USA)	3	8	4
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	4	1	9
Crawford Ashley (GB)	5	–	6
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	6	–	8
Montell Griffin (USA)	7	3	2
Merqui Sosa (DR)	8	11	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	9	–	–
Nicky Piper (GB)	10	–	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	30	5	5
Gary Ballard (SA)	–	6	–
Leif Keiski (SWE)	–	7	–
Darrin Allen (USA)	27	9	3
Gavin Ryan (THAI)	–	10	–
Stephan Anghern (SWI)	–	–	7
Ray Berry (USA)	29	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Robin Reid (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Henry Wharton (GB)	1	2	5
Thulane Malinga (SA)	2	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	3	–	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	4	–	8
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	5	5	11
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	6	1	9
Joe Calzaghe (GB)	7	7	7
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	8	8	–
Chris Omar Johnson (USA)	9	–	–
Joseph Kiwanuka (UGA)	10	–	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	15	3	10
Tim Littles (USA)	–	4	–
Mike Makata (NZ)	–	6	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	17	9	2
Ravea Springs (USA)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Gary Ballard (SA)	12	–	3
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	–	4
Bryant Brannon (USA)	–	–	6

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Otis Grant (CAN)	1	4	11
Quincy Taylor (USA)	2	–	–
Julian Jackson (USA)	3	–	–
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	4	12	4
Robert McCracken (GB)	5	–	2
Richie Woodhall (GB)	6	–	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	7	–	–
Neville Brown (GB)	8	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	9	1	1
Peter Venancio (BRA)	10	2	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	3	5
Glen Johnson (USA)	–	5	7
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	6	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	7	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	8	–
Anthony Andrews (GUY)	21	9	–
Julian Jackson (VI)	–	10	–
Lloyd Bryan (USA)	–	–	3
Brian Barbosa (USA)	12	11	6
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	–	–	8
Branco Sabot (CRO)	–	–	9
Yoshinari Nishizawa (JAP)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	C
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	–	C	–
Faouzi Hattab (FRA)	1	–	–
Raul Marquez (USA)	2	5	1
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	3	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	4	7	–
David Ciarlante (ITA)	5	–	–
Stephane Ouellette (CAN)	6	–	–
Said Bennajem (FRA)	7	–	–
Ernie Artango (AUSTRL)	8	–	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	9	–	–
Nick Rupa (USA)	10	11	10
Carl Daniels (USA)	12	1	2
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	17	2	5
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	3	–
Giovanni Pretorious (SA)	–	4	3
Mpush Makambi (SA)	28	6	–
Alejandro Ugueto (VEN)	–	8	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	15	9	–
Engels Pedroza (VEN)	–	10	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	16	–	4
Steve Foster (GB)	–	–	6
Adrian Dodson (GB)	22	–	7
Fauzi Hattab (FRA)	–	–	8
Rossman Henry (COL)	–	–	9

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	1	2	1
Derrell Coley (USA)	2	4	8
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	3	7	11
Jose Luis Navarro (SPA)	4	–	–
Robert West (USA)	5	–	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	6	1	–
Ariel Chaves (ARG)	7	–	–
Ralph Jones (USA)	8	10	–
Hiroyuki Yoshino (JAP)	9	–	–
Diobelys Hurtado (CUBA)	10	–	–
Sean Sullivan (NZ)	–	3	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	5	10
Andrew Murray (GUY)	26	6	7
Juan Negron (PR)	–	8	9
Jeff Malcolm (AUSTRL)	–	9	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	2
Hitonon Sato (JAP)	–	–	3
Tony Martin (USA)	22	11	4
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	5
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	6

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	C	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	C
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	1	–	–
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	2	2	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	3	–	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	4	1	–
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	5	–	8
Charles Murray (USA)	6	7	7
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	7	12	3
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	8	8	2
Juan Coggi (ARG)	9	5	–
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	10	–	–
Jose Barbosa (VEN)	13	3	–
Freddie Ladd (USA)	11	4	–
David Kamau (USA)	16	6	–
Hiromu Kuwata (JAP)	–	9	–
Viacheslav Yanovsky (KAZ)	–	10	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	–	–	1
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	–	4
Jermal Corbin (USA)	–	–	5
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	–	6
Leonardo Mas (PR)	26	–	9
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	12	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	C	–	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Philip Holiday (SA)	–	–	C
Steve Johnston (USA)	1	3	6
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	2	–	–
Angel Mona (FRA)	3	2	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	4	6	12
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	5	–	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	6	–	–
Billy Irwin (CAN)	7	–	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	8	10	–
Manuel Fernandez (FRA)	9	–	–
Jong Kwon Baek (KOR)	10	–	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	1	10
Ivan Robinson (USA)	–	4	1
Adrianus Taroreh (INDO)	–	5	–
Oleg Marchenko (RUS)	–	7	–
Carlos Fernandez (PORT)	–	8	–
David Dodi Tetteh (GHA)	21	9	–
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	–	2
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	28	–	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	–	–	4
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	22	–	5
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	–	–	7
Billy Schwer (GB)	17	12	8
Shane Mosley (USA)	12	–	9

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	C
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	1	2	4
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	2	–	–
Robert Garcia (USA)	3	6	2
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	4	–	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	5	5	–
Ulrich Johnson (TRIN)	6	10	11
P.J. Gallagher (GB)	7	–	12
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	8	7	7
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	9	–	10
Douglas Villarreal (COL)	10	8	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	1	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	3	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	4	–
Koji Arisawa (JAP)	–	9	–
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	1
John Brown (USA)	–	–	3
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	5
Cliff Samardin (AUSTRL)	–	–	6
Boris Sinitsin (RUS)	15	–	8
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	–	–	9

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Carlos Rios (ARG)	1	2	10
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	–
Billy Hardy (GB)	3	5	4
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	4	1	11
Jesus Chavez (USA)	5	–	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	6	–	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	7	6	7
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	8	–	–
Frederic Perez (FRA)	9	–	–
Koji Matsumoto (JAP)	10	–	–
Victor Polo (COL)	25	3	–
David Santos (USA)	17	4	3
Roque Cassiani (COL)	–	7	–
Tony Wehbe (INDO)	–	8	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	–	9	–
Victor Llerena (COL)	21	10	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	–	2
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	11	5
November Ntshingila (AUSTRL)	13	–	6
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	8
Arnulfo Castillo (USA)	–	–	9

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Erik Morales (MEX)	1	3	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	–	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	3	–	–
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	4	–	–
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	5	5	4
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	6	7	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	7	–	–
Enrique Jupiter (MEX)	8	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	9	–	10
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	10	–	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	–	1	8
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	2	–
Yober Ortega (VEN)	–	4	–
Mike Garcia (USA)	–	6	–
Bong Chul Kim (KOR)	15	8	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	9	–
Serge Poilbian (FRA)	20	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	22	–	3
Jesus Perez (COL)	–	–	5
Rey Jamil (PHIL)	–	–	6
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	7
Aristead Clayton (USA)	–	–	9

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	C	–	–
Sirimongkol Singmanasuk (THAI)	IC	–	–
Daorung C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	C
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	–	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	2	8	–
In Jin Chi (KOR)	3	–	12
Paul Ayala (USA)	4	6	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	5	–	8
Jorge Monsalvo (COL)	6	–	–
Shaszi Nitta (JAP)	7	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	8	–	–
Javier Campanario (SPA)	9	–	–
Jesus Sarabia (MEX)	10	–	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	–	1	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	2	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	3	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	4	–
Angel Chacon (PR)	–	5	–
Tim Austin (USA)	15	7	1
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	12	9	–
Setsuo Kawamasu (JAP)	14	10	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	2
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	24	–	3
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	–	4
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	–	5
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	–	6
Narciso Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	7
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	–	12	9
Ancee Gedeon (USA)	–	–	10

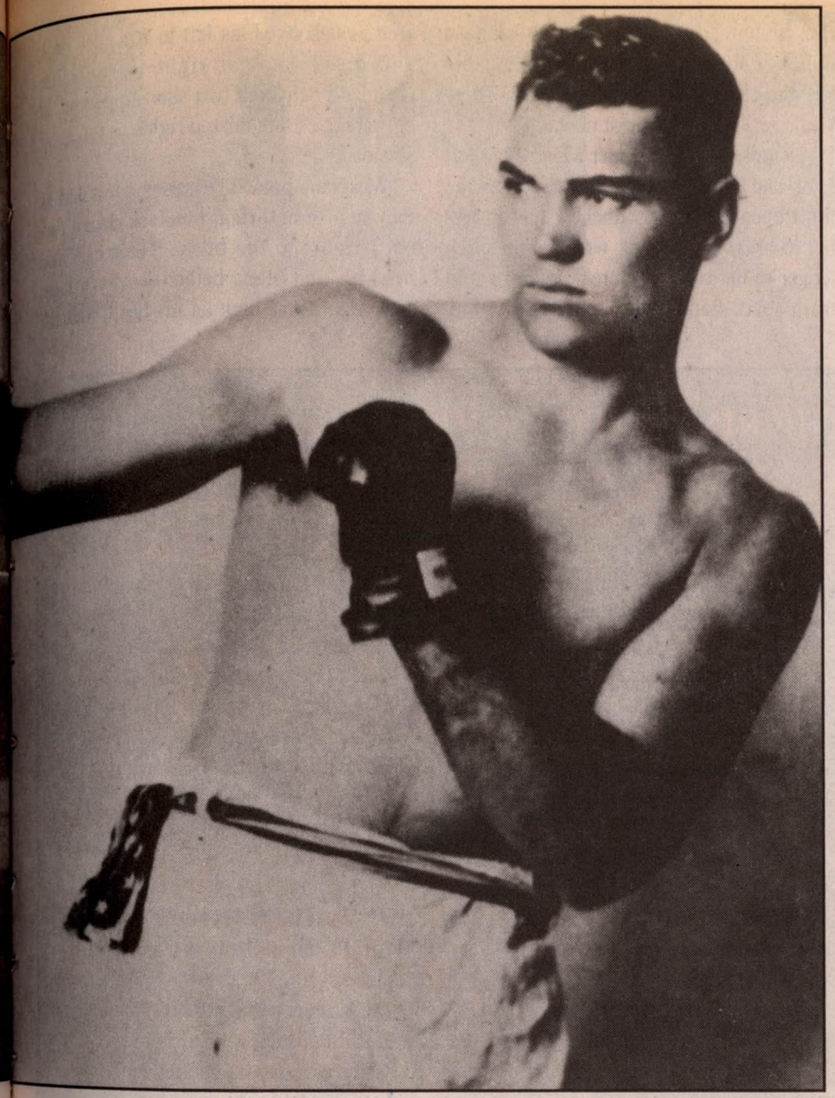
JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	C	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	C
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	1	4	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	2	6	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	3	7	–
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	4	–	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	5	10	10
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	6	2	–
Kazuhisa Machida (JAP)	7	–	–
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	8	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	9	–	–
Jorge Barrera (MEX)	10	–	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	1	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	3	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	–	5	–
Adonis Cruz (NIC)	21	8	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	25	9	8
Jaji Sibali (SA)	11	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	2
Andy Agosto (PR)	14	–	3
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	4
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	22	–	5
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	6
Ricky Matulessi (INDO)	–	–	7
Polo Saucedo (USA)	–	–	9

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	3	9
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	2	–	1
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	3	9	10
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	4	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	5	5	–
Chokchai Chokviwat (THAI)	6	–	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	7	8	4
Salvatore Fanni (ITA)	8	–	–
Peter Culshaw (GB)	9	2	–
Paul Weir (GB)	10	–	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	1	2
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	20	4	–
Daniel Ward (SA)	–	6	–
Takashi Ohba (JAP)	27	7	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	26	10	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	3
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	5
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	6
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	–	7
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	8

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	–	C	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	–	–	C
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	1	2	3
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	2	–	–
Yosam Choi (KOR)	3	9	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	4	–	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	5	–	10
Kaaj Chartbandi (THAI)	6	–	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	7	–	–
Micky Cantwell (GB)	8	–	–
Ramon Euroza (MEX)	9	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	10	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	12	1	5
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	3	–
Jesus Chong (MEX)	–	4	9
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	5	6
Sinn Ploenchit (THAI)	–	6	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	7	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	16	8	–
Suzuki Kabato (JAP)	–	10	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	18	–	1
P.S. Wonjongkam (THAI)	–	–	2
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	4
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	7
Takashi Shiohama (JAP)	–	–	8

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	C
Rocky Lin (JAP)	1	3	–
Sinn Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	2	–	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	6	–
Hyung Sok Kang (KOR)	4	–	–
Myung Sup Park (KOR)	5	–	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	6	4	2
Morgan Ndumo (SA)	7	–	9
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	8	–	–
Lindi Memani (SA)	9	–	–
Ray Villamor (PHIL)	10	–	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	1	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	2	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	5	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	30	7	–
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	–	8	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	–	9	–
Kwanjai Battery (THAI)	–	10	–
Juan Herrera (COL)	15	–	1
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	–	3
Mongol Charoen (THAI)	–	–	4
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	26	–	5
Wondee Charoen (THAI)	–	–	6
Luis Doria (COL)	–	–	7
Gustavo Vera (VEN)	–	–	8
Lee Sandoval (NIC)	19	–	10

RING CLASSIC



MARCIANO-DEMPSEY FIGHT A KNOCKOUT

Who would have won a fight of the century, Rocky Marciano or Jack Dempsey? Take it away, Al Buck. You dreamed this one up!

From The Ring, December 1954

By Al Buck

Even the stars were startled as they looked down on the Yankee Stadium. Something unusual was going on. The ringside stretched back row after row to the crowded stands. Outside, thousands upon thousands of excited people milled around trying to get into the park. Here was drama.

A night baseball game, perhaps? No, a fight.

Over the loudspeaker, a voice was heard shouting, "There are no more tickets. The fight is sold-out."

The fight. What fight? Jack Dempsey vs. Rocky Marciano for the world heavyweight championship. A dream match, and also Mike Jacobs' greatest promotion. Uncle Mike had been panned in the newspapers for charging $100 ringside, but the people were in the park. More than 75,000, the promoter estimated. This was boxing's first $3-million gate.

In the brightly lighted ring, Joe Humphreys, the golden-voiced announcer, was making the inroductions. Benny Leonard, undefeated lightweight champion ... Mickey Walker, "The Toy Bulldog" ... Johnny Dundee, the featherweight champion ... Pete Herman, the bantamweight champion ... Harry Greb, "The Pittsburgh Windmill" ... Ruby Goldstein, "The Jewel Of The Ghetto."

The vast throng was on edge. They were waiting for what sportswriters were saying would be "The Battle Of The Century." A roar went up as Dempsey, a stubble of beard on his grim face, was the first to crawl through the ropes. A sweater was draped over his shoulders. Jack Kearns, his manager, was with him, and so was Jerry the Greek, his trainer. Joe Benjamin, the lightweight, carried a pail.

Marciano followed, and crossed the ring to shake hands with Dempsey. Al Weill, Rocky's manager, nodded to a friend in the working press. Charley Goldman and Al Columbo, "The Brockton Blockbuster's" trainers, were with the dark-haired contender. Rocky was wearing a white robe and looking confident.

The gloves were put on in the ring. James A. Farley, chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, nodded to Humphreys. Again, Joe was in the center of the ring.

"Quiet, please. Quiet, please ... This contest, 15 rounds for the world heavyweight championship ... The officials—the officials appointed by the New York State Athletic Commission ... Judges are Marty Monroe and Arthur Susskind. The referee Arthur Donovan.

"Quiet, please. In this corner, wearing purple trunks, the heavyweight champion of the world, Jack Dempsey, 'The Manassa Mauler,' weighing 190 pounds ... Over here, wearing black trunks and weighing 185½ pounds, the challenger, Rocky Marciano ... Fifteen rounds for the world heavyweight championship."

This was it. A silence settled over the crowd. Dempsey, Marciano, and their seconds were huddled in the center of the ring, getting final instructions from Donovan.

"In case of a knockdown, the man scoring it must go to a neutral corner ... Watch your low blows, they may cost you a round ... Break when I tell you ... Shake hands now and come out fighting."

Nobody was listening to Donovan. George Bannon, watch in hand, waited for the signal. Back in the corner, Marciano's seconds turned him around so he faced the center of the ring. Dempsey had his back turned, gripping the ropes with both hands.

The gong sounded. The fight was on.

Dempsey wheeled and rushed. Marciano was ready. He met the charge with a short, jolting right-hand uppercut, and Jack went to his knees. It was a knockdown, but the champ was up without a count, pounding away with both hands to the body. Rocky backed off, and Dempsey followed with a smashing left hook to the jaw which sprawled the Blockbuster headfirst on the canvas. Donovan had difficulty

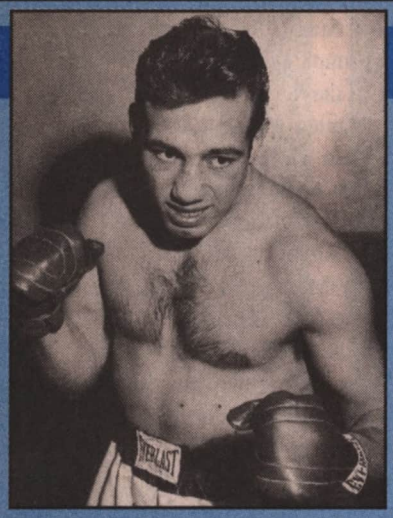
getting Dempsey to a neutral corner before he picked up the count at seven. Marciano was up at nine and clinched as the champion rushed to close quarters.

Two knockdowns in the opening round, with the second coming up.

Marciano's handlers warned him to be cautious, and he backed away as Dempsey came out punching at the bell. Dempsey forced the fighting, clubbing both hands to the ribs at close quarters. Marciano's uppercut drew blood from Jack's nose, but still the champion pressed the issue. There was a furious exchange at the bell.

Dempsey bobbed under Marciano's left hook and drove his right to the ribs as the third opened. Rocky clinched, and in trying to break away, Jack wrestled the challenger to the ropes. Referee Donovan split them apart. Back in the center of the ring, Dempsey hooked his left to Rocky's neck and drove another right to the ribs. Marciano delivered two short uppercuts at close range. Both missed rights as the gong sounded.

Marciano pinned Dempsey's left arm as they met in mid-ring, but Jack drove two hard rights to the body. They crashed head-on, and blood bathed Rocky's face. The wound was high on his head, and the



Paddy DeMarco

THE RING RATINGS, *December 1954*

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Rocky Marciano, Brockton, MA
1. **Nino Valdes**, Cuba
2. **Don Cockell**, England
3. **Ezzard Charles**, Cincinnati, OH
4. **Heinz Neuhaus**, Germany
5. **Jimmy Slade**, New York, NY
6. **Bob Baker**, Pittsburgh, PA
7. **Roland LaStarza**, New York, NY
8. **Earl Walls**, Canada
9. **Tommy Jackson**, Far Rockaway, NY
10. **Dan Bucceroni**, Philadelphia, PA

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Archie Moore, San Diego, CA
1. **Billy Smith**, Atlantic City, NJ
2. **Joey Maxim**, Cleveland, OH
3. **Paul Andrews**, Buffalo, NY
4. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Floyd Patterson**, Brooklyn, NY
6. **Gerhard Hecht**, Germany
7. **Bob Satterfield**, Chicago, IL
8. **Willi Hoepner**, Germany
9. **Yolande Pompey**, Trinidad, BWI
10. **Jacques Hairabedian**, France

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carl (Bobo) Olson, Honolulu, HI
1. **Joey Giardello**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Holly Mims**, Washington, D.C.
3. **Tiberio Mitri**, Italy
4. **Rocky Castellani**, Cleveland, OH
5. **Pierre Langlois**, France
6. **Willie Troy**, Washington, D.C.
7. **Georgie Johnson**, Trenton, NJ
8. **Eduardo Lausse**, Argentina
9. **Bobby Jones**, Oakland, CA
10. **Charley Humez**, France

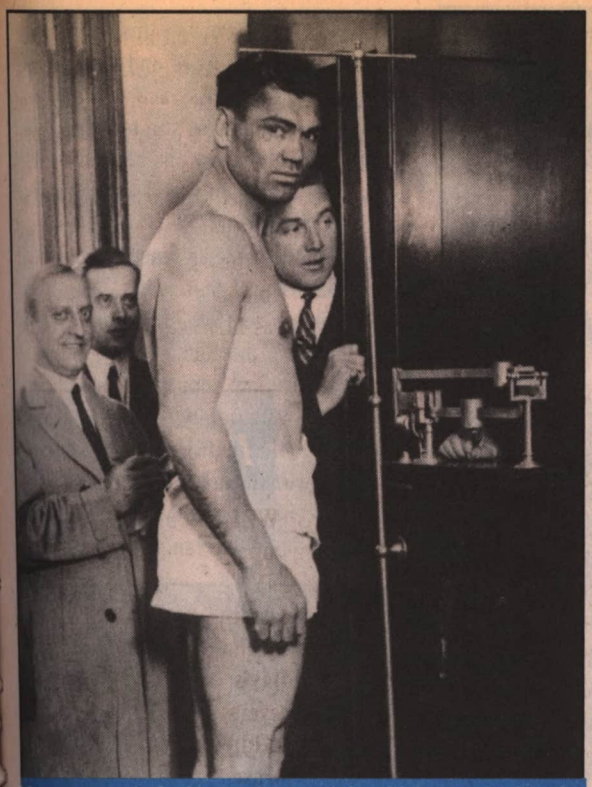
WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Johnny Saxton, Brooklyn, NY
1. **Kid Gavilan**, Cuba
2. **Carmen Basilio**, Syracuse, NY
3. **Del Flanagan**, St. Paul, MN
4. **Ramon Fuentes**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Freddy Dawson**, Chicago, IL
6. **Al Andrews**, Superior, WI
7. **Tony DeMarco**, Boston, MA
8. **Vince Martinez**, Paterson, NJ
9. **Hector Constance**, Trinidad, BWI
10. **Wally Thom**, England

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Paddy DeMarco, Brooklyn, NY
1. **Jimmy Carter**, New York, NY
2. **Orlando Zulueta**, Cuba
3. **Duilio Loi**, Italy
4. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
5. **Arthur Persley**, Red Crosse, LA
6. **Cisco Andrade**, Compton, CA
7. **Johnny Gonsalves**, Oakland, CA
8. **Wallace (Bud) Smith**, Cincinnati, OH
9. **Frankie Ryff**, New York, NY
10. **Lulu Perez**, Brooklyn, NY

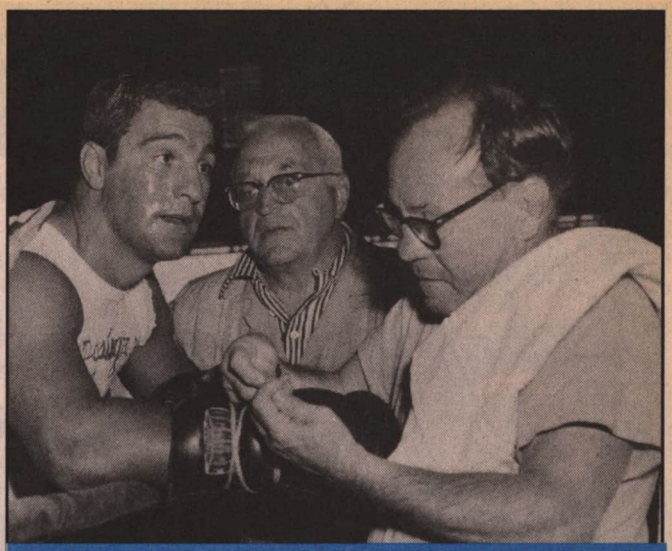
FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Sandy Saddler, New York, NY
1. **Percy Bassett**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Ray Famechon**, France
3. **Teddy Davis**, Hartford, CT
4. **Jean Sneyers**, Belgium
5. **Hogan (Kid) Bassey**, Nigeria
6. **Ciro Morasen**, Cuba
7. **Carmelo Costa**, Brooklyn, NY
8. **Billy Kelly**, Ireland
9. **Shigeja Kaneko**, Japan
10. **Baby Ortiz**, Mexico

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Robert Cohen, France
1. **Chamrern Songkitrat**, Thailand
2. **Raton Macias**, Mexico
3. **Pierre Cossemyns**, Belgium
4. **Mario D'Agata**, Italy
5. **Hilaire Pratesi**, France
6. **Andre Valignat**, France
7. **Peter Keenan**, Scotland
8. **Willie Toweel**, South Africa
9. **Nate Brooks**, Cleveland, OH
10. **Billy Peacock**, Los Angeles, CA

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Yoshio Shirai, Japan
1. **Leo Espinosa**, Philippines
2. **Pascual Perez**, Argentina
3. **Dai Dower**, Wales
4. **Eric Marsden**, England
5. **Danny Kid**, Philippines
6. **Tanny Campo**, Philippines
7. **Jake Tuli**, South Africa
8. **Nazzarino Gianelli**, Italy
9. **Mariano Diaz**, Spain
10. **Young Martin**, Spain



Dempsey wasn't the biggest heavyweight of his time. In fact, he usually weighed only about 188 pounds. But he was amazingly strong and naturally powerful. On Dempsey's left is Nat Fleischer, publisher and editor of THE RING.



Has there ever been a heavyweight champion—or any fighter, for that matter—who has trained as diligently as Marciano? Pictured with The Rock is manager Al Weill (center) and trainer Charley Goldman.

claret was dripping into his eyes.

Marciano seemed to be having trouble seeing, but in desperation he met Dempsey's rush with a solid right to the jaw. It shook the champion, who was backing away as the fourth round ended.

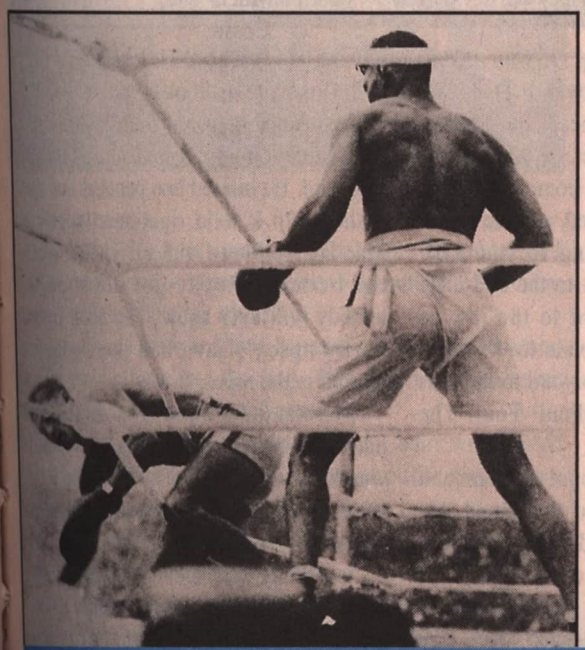
Between rounds, Weill ran along the apron of the ring to protest to Donovan that Dempsey had butted Marciano. In the latter's corner, both Goldman and Columbo were vainly trying to close the wound. Rocky was still bleeding as he answered the bell for the fifth.

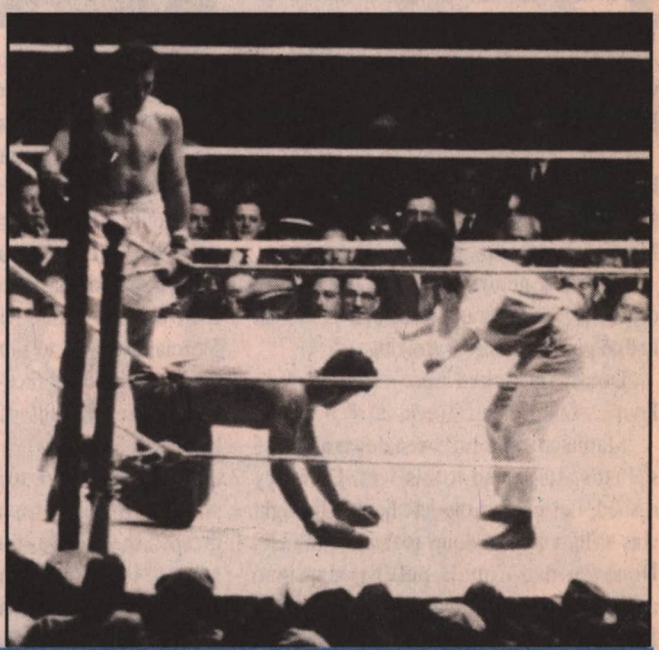
Marciano's first punch was a left hook that landed low. "Keep 'em up, keep 'em up," yelled Kearns from Dempsey's corner.

Rocky's next punch was also low. He was having trouble seeing, but Donovan stepped in and cautioned him about the low blows. Dempsey pushed by the referee and shook Marciano with a left hook to the chin.

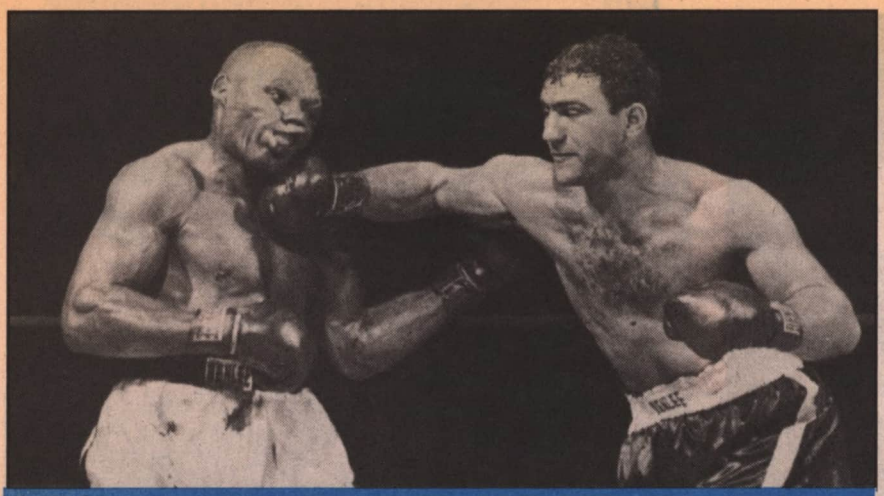
"A sneak punch, a sneak punch," Weill shouted.

"Sit down or I'll have you thrown out," Bert Stand, Boxing Commission secretary,





Dempsey was as ferocious a champion as the ring had ever seen. In his eagerly anticipated 1921 title defense against French hero Georges Carpentier, "The Manassa Mauler" scored a brutal fourth-round knockout (left). Two years later at the Polo Grounds in New York, Dempsey rose from the canvas to punch out Luis Angel Firpo in two of the wildest rounds of all-time (right).



As hard as Dempsey hit, Marciano just might have been able to match him punch for punch. "The Brockton Blockbuster's" bombs were on display in his first fight with Jersey Joe Walcott (above) and his rematch with Roland LaStarza (below).

who was seated in Marciano's corner, warned the manager.

The crowd was in an uproar, some booing Marciano, and others condemning Dempsey for his sneak punch.

The fighters, squared away in the center of the ring, exchanged lefts. As Dempsey closed in, his left hook opened a gash above Marciano's left eye. Now the challenger was in serious trouble, and between rounds his seconds worked desperately to patch him up.

"This is it, Jack," said Kearns. "The sixth is coming up. This is your round."

Dempsey charged across the ring, as he had done at the start of each round. A left hook crashed against Marciano's head. Another left hook found his jaw, and as he went down, Jack clipped him with a short, jolting right.

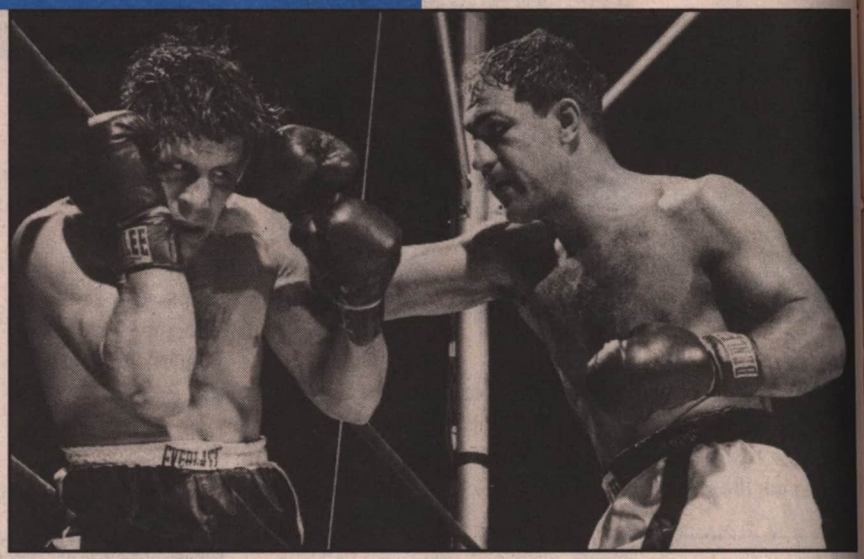
"One ... two ... three ... " Donovan looked around, and there was Dempsey standing at his shoulder, waiting for Marciano to get up.

"Go to a neutral corner," the referee ordered. Dempsey delayed, and Donovan had to push him across the ring.

Donovan picked up the count. " ... Four ... five ... six ... seven ... "

Marciano, who had been down all of 15 seconds, staggered to his feet. Dempsey rushed, but missed the left hook. His right was wild, and Marciano grabbed and held. Donovan had trouble pulling Marciano a way. Jack missed again, and once more Rocky clinched. He held on until rescued by the bell.

Failure to go to a neutral corner had cost Dempsey a knockout.



"The count was long. It was a long count," Kearns shouted over at Donovan. The official shook his head, but did not reply to the angry manager.

Now the seventh was coming up. This one would end it, it seemed, and the crowd was on its feet shouting for the kill. Dempsey hooked his left to the body. He followed it with a right to the jaw as Marciano turned to complain to the referee. Rocky pitched face-forward to the canvas as Weill shouted, "Foul! Foul! The blow was foul!"

Donovan began to count as Marciano started to crawl toward the ropes. He grasped the middle strand and pulled himself up, just beating the count of 10. The Manassa Mauler moved in. A long right smashed against the challenger's face. The Blockbuster dropped to his knees. Again he took a count of nine.

Courage alone was keeping Marciano on his feet. As Dempsey rushed to close quarters, Rocky clinched and hung on like a drowning man. His face was covered with blood, but he was still trying to fight. Jack pushed him away and hooked his left. Once more Marciano was down, but at five the gong sounded.

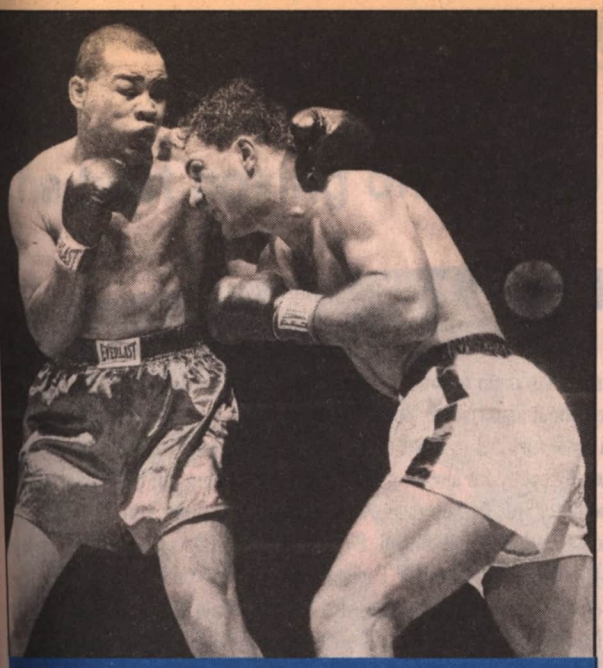
Weill and Goldman leaped through the ropes and dragged Marciano to the corner. As Goldman and Columbo worked frantically to revive the fighter, Weill yelled at Farley. "Dempsey should be disqualified. This ain't a streetfight!"

His words were drowned in the thunder of the crowd. If Farley heard, he took no action. Meanwhile, Dr. Vincent Nardiello, Commission physician, was in the ring looking at Marciano. He conferred briefly with Donovan, but took no action.

Marciano staggered from his corner as the eighth started. Overanxious, Dempsey was wild. He missed two punches and then rushed into a solid right-hand uppercut. Marciano followed with a left hook. Where the battered Rocky got the strength, nobody will ever know. The hook landed on Dempsey's jaw, and the champion backed to the ropes.

Marciano followed with another left hook, getting his shoulder into the blow. It was half-punch, half-shove, but the ropes were loose and Dempsey slid backwards out into the working press section.

In falling, Jack broke the typewriter of Nat Fleischer, veteran sports editor of *The Sun*, and in self-protection, Nat shoved Jack away. The typewriter was ruined, but aided by Nat's push, Jack grabbed the lower strand and managed to pull himself



When Marciano squared off with an aging Joe Louis in 1951, he showed little respect for his elder, crushing "The Brown Bomber" in the eighth round (above). Five years later, Dempsey and Louis, still looking formidable, share war stories (below).

into the ring.

The count? Nobody knew for sure, but Donovan had reached either eight or nine. Dempsey was hurt, but Marciano was too tired to follow his advantage.

Again, Weill protested that Dempsey had received assistance in getting back into the ring. The gong was a welcome sound to both and champion and challenger.

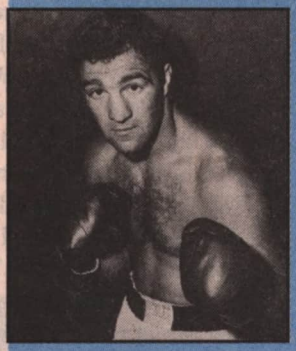
By now the crowd was completely mad. Chairs were turned over. Marciano's Brockton admirers were pushing their way into the working press sections. Police were trying to restrain them. Those in the distant bleachers broke out onto the field. Women fainted and and men screamed.

How long could the fight last? The bell for round nine ... the bell. What? What? Time to get up. The coffee is ready. No, it couldn't be.

But it was. The greatest fight of all-time was only my dream fight. ■

THE RING, December 1954

The Cover: Heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano and top contender Ezzard Charles, who has twice tested The Rock, are depicted on the cover by artist extraordinaire and frequent contributor Chris Schaare. The question the cover story attempts to answer: Who would win a dream fight between Marciano and Jack Dempsey?

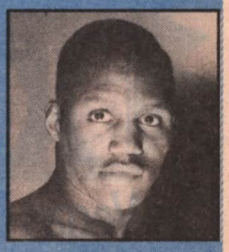


Next For The Rock: With heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano having twice rejected the spirited challenge of Ezzard Charles, what's next? Associate Editor Dan Daniel examines the question. After plastic surgery to repair the nose Charles almost split in two, Marciano is likely to take on either Cuba's Nino Valdes or England's Don Cockell.

The Ring's Kingmaker: Editor and Publisher Nat Fleischer reports from Thailand, where he judged the world bantamweight title fight between local hero Chamrern Songkitrat and France's Robert Cohen (pictured). The latter won the vacant title by split decision, with Fleischer's vote the deciding one.

Let's Do It Again: The recent Marciano-Charles rematch, during which The Rock suffered a badly cut nose, brings to mind the question of return bouts: Are they usually better than the originals? After citing several examples, Jersey Jones draws a singular conclusion: There's no conclusion to draw.

Fighter Of The Month: Johnny Saxton is honored for his shocking upset of defending world welterweight champion Kid Gavilan. Saxton defeated "The Keed" by unanimous 15-round decision at Convention Hall in Philadelphia. Gavilan had reigned for 3½ years.

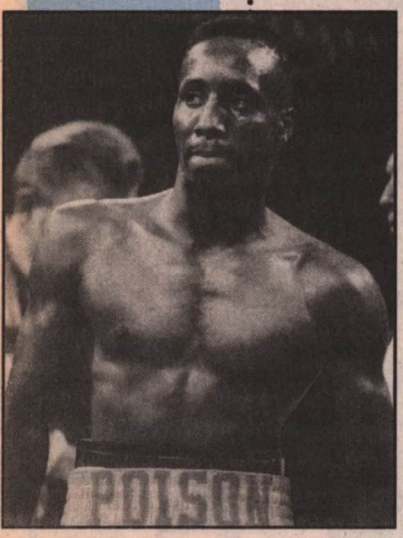


LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

TELEVISION HEAVEN IN '97

Next time I have the boxing blues, I'm gonna pick up the phone and call HBO's Lou DiBella and Showtime's Jay Larkin. I spoke to those power brokers in December, asking them to preview the 1997 boxing year on their respective networks. If half the big fights they talked about materialize, '97 will be the hottest year of the decade.



Jones: Sure to return to HBO

First, HBO's DiBella: "Fans can look forward to what they always look forward to on HBO: the best fighters and the best fights. We're already pretty far ahead in the process of making big fights. *Boxing After Dark* will air nine times, with the summer off. In February, we'll have the Arturo Gatti-Tracy Patterson rematch, with Angel Manfredy-Wilson Rodriguez underneath. Pernell Whitaker-Oscar De La Hoya will be on TVKO [HBO's pay-per-view arm], and hopefully Johnny Tapia-Danny Romero on HBO.

"There'll be major fights at 122 and 126 pounds. If Wayne McCullough beats Daniel Zaragoza, maybe McCullough-Junior Jones. And maybe Jones-Kevin Kelley or Jones-Marco Antonio Barrera II. Also, look for Roy Jones-Virgil Hill. We did 20 shows in '96. There'll definitely be more in '97."

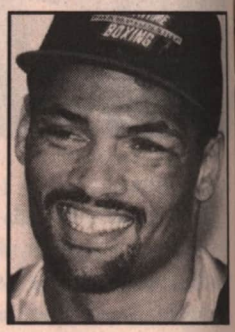
And Showtime's Larkin: "I'm very optimistic. The biggest news, of course, will be the Evander Holyfield-Mike Tyson situation. They'll probably do a rematch in late-spring or early-fall. It's safe to say a rematch will happen. If it's pushed back as far as June or later, Tyson is unlikely to sit out for seven months. He'd probably fight on SET [Showtime's PPV arm], maybe against [IBF champion] Michael Moorer.

"On February 8, we have Tom Johnson-Naseem Hamed in London, with Steve Collins underneath. And there'll be an increased perception of Terry Norris, Felix Trinidad, and Frankie Randall. They're heading toward a collision, and I see a lovely round-robin, with Norris-Trinidad most likely as the first fight.

"Henry Akinwande is standing on the edge of greater recognition, and perhaps Christy Martin will headline her own show on Showtime. Ricardo Lopez-Michael Carbajal? It could happen. If Lopez weighed 20 pounds more, he'd be a superstar. As talented as he is, Lopez is a fight fan's fighter, and I question how big a fight he and Carbajal would be."

LISTEN UP

The aforementioned featherweight clash between IBF champion **Tom Johnson** and unbeaten British sensation **Naseem Hamed** is set for February 8 in London. Johnson, whose career-high purse has been $175,000, will pocket at least $750,000. "I can't see this kid beating me," he told THE RING ... **George Foreman-Lou Savarese** is being talked about again, possibly for Madison Square Garden early in '97 ... Regarding a bout for **Oscar De La Hoya**, it seems a rematch with **Julio Cesar Chavez** is out and **Pernell Whitaker** is in. Look for the bout in May, with IBF junior welterweight champion **Kostya Tszyu** defending against **Charles Murray** on the undercard. As we went to press, WBC super lightweight king De La Hoya was scheduled to defend vs. **Miguel Angel Gonzalez**, and WBC welter champion Whitaker was preparing to take on Cuba's slick **Diobelys Hurtado** ... Everyone expects WBA/IBF light heavyweight champion **Virgil Hill** to tackle **Roy Jones**, but we hear he can pick up a couple of million bucks facing **Graciano Rocchigiani** in Germany.



Hill: Will he take on Roy Jones?

Las Vegas Hilton

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Roy Jones	Virgil Hill	10-1	Hill coming off big win, but no upset here
Mike Tyson	Michael Moorer	4-1	Very interesting and tough for Mike's comeback fight
Junior Jones	Marco Antonio Barrera	7-5	Barrera will never be the same
Junior Jones	Kevin Kelley	3-1	Kelley's the same as Barrera; too vulnerable to right hands

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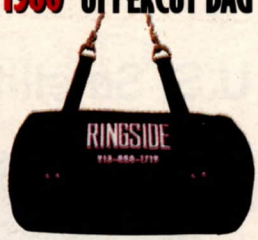

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